The present Chuck-will's-widow was flushed 4 times before it was taken. In each case it flew 15 to 30 m before alighting, 3 times in the roadway and once on the tip of a broken snag where it perched erectly, owl-fashion. Its flight was direct but seemed relatively slow and labored. I have estimated that the primary surface of the wing (Fig. 2) lacked about ¼ of its normal surface, this at the critical tip, and the tail approximately 50%—surely enough to impair the maneuvers required in aerial feeding.

Finally, the bird was virtually emaciated, weighing 86.7 g. Other Chuck-will's-widows in the University of Kansas collection weighed 109, 109, 146, and 153 g (females, the last 2 with shelled eggs in their oviducts), and 97, 111, 119, 125, and 128 g (males, the first extremely lean). The bird's stomach was empty save for one scute from a large beetle. The weather for several days had been unseasonably cold with periodic heavy rainfall. The capacity for short-term torpidity—undemonstrated thus far in this caprimulgid—would be highly adaptive under these circumstances.

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Throat obstruction as a mortality factor among Willow Ptarmigan chicks.—Mortality among ptarmigan (*Lagopus* spp.) chicks is often high during the first week after hatching (Jenkins et al., J. Anim. Ecol. 32:317–376, 1963; Watson, J. Anim. Ecol. 34:135–172, 1965) though the causes are poorly documented. The following account describes some cases of mortality affecting new born chicks from late clutches of Willow Ptarmigan (*Lagopus lagopus*).

On 23 July 1974 we found a 1–2-day-old dead chick on Karlsøy Island in Troms County, Norway on a territory known to contain a renest brood. This was an unusual discovery as dead chicks are not commonly found. The chick had hatched approximately one month later than the normal peak hatching period.

The chick appeared unharmed exteriorly. Necropsy disclosed that the crop contained 2 crowberries (*Empetrum* spp.) and a third crowberry had become wedged in the posterior opening of the crop and was pressing against the bronchial tubes. The lungs contained bloody foam and death was apparently due to strangulation. Six similar cases of mortality due to obstruction or strangulation from both ripe and unripe blueberries (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) occurred among approximately 50 late, newly hatched chicks raised in captivity during the same summer.

The diet of wild Willow Ptarmigan consists mainly of insects during the first week of life (Lid and Meidell, Nytt. Mag. Naturvidensk. 73:75–114, 1933; Christiansen and Kraft, Nor. Jeger og Fiskerforbunds Tidsskr. 4:1–10, 1953). Insect consumption then decreases rapidly while the relative amount of plant material increases. Flowers and the vegetative parts of blueberry plants are often included in the diet of young chicks. Berries are not (Christiansen and Kraft 1953), as most chicks normally hatch before *Vaccinium* (and *Empetrum*) berries are available. Chicks from renest broods, often hatch during the early part of the berry season at which time berries could be consumed and result in mortality as described here. Whether newly hatched chicks prefer berries to insects is not presently known.

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