

We wish to thank Ned Brinkley, Louis Bevier, Tony Leukering, and Joseph Morlan for reviewing the original description and for providing valuable insights into the problems of identification of the Western Flycatcher complex. We also thank Will Cook, who has made photographs and sonograms of this North Carolina flycatcher currently available online at <http://www.duke.edu/~cwcook/psfl.html>.

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Verification that the Chuck-will's-widow Occurs in Winter in South Carolina

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The Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) has been classified as a summer resident in South Carolina, with an early arrival date of 11 March (Post and Gauthreaux 1989). This note transmits two reports verifying that the species occurs in coastal South Carolina during the winter.

On 26 January 1996, McCallum made a videotape of a Chuck-will's-widow that was in his yard on Sullivan's Island, Charleston County. The bird was perched on the top of a fencepost, in full view. McCallum was able to watch the bird for only a brief period, until it left its perch after Northern Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) began mobbing it. The site is a garden area sheltered by a mature stand of live oaks (*Quercus virginiana*). McCallum digitized the videotape, and a print is deposited in the Charleston Museum (ChM 2003.27.016).

On 29 January 2003, Dias found a dead Chuck-will's-widow at the U.S. Coast Guard station site on North Folly Island (Charleston Co.). The bird had just died, and the body was still warm and flexible. It had been sitting in a sparse grassy area several meters from coastal scrub dominated by live oaks, wax-myrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) and yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*). The

specimen (study skin with left wing extended; ChM 2003.27.010) was a juvenile male; left testis: 4.5 x 3.5 mm; right: 3.7 x 4.0 mm). It had little subcutaneous fat, and weighed 98.8 g, slightly below the average for males (Straight and Cooper 2000). Other measurements were: wing length (chord from wrist to longest primary): 212 mm; wingspan: 61.5 cm; tail: 137 mm; total length: 30.1 cm.

The Chuck-will's-widow has expanded its breeding range northward since the 1960s, most significantly during the 1970s and 1980s (Straight and Cooper 2000). Thus, it may be expected that more individuals will start wintering north of their historic winter range, which on the Atlantic coast had extended only to southern Florida (Stevenson and Anderson 1994, Straight and Cooper 2000). Indeed, the first winter report for North Carolina was obtained on 31 December 1982, when H. E. LeGrand, Jr. and D. Cristol saw two individuals at Buxton, on Cape Hatteras (LeGrand 1983). Six additional North Carolina reports, all from the coastal counties, have been published since 1982. One of these is of a specimen obtained by Gilbert Grant on 22 February 1992, at North Topsail Beach, Pender County (LeGrand 1992). This is the latest winter report for both states. The specimen is now in the collection of Coastal Carolina Community College, Jacksonville, NC. As yet, Georgia has no material verification of wintering Chuck-will's-widows, although three winter sight reports exist for Charlton and Lowndes Counties, both on the Florida border (Beaton et al. 2003; G. Beaton pers. comm.).

Acknowledgments

We thank Donna and Dennis Forsythe for their assistance in salvaging and identifying the specimen. Giff Beaton kindly provided pertinent information in advance of the publication of the Georgia checklist.

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