

A SPECIMEN OF CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW FROM HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

STANLEY W. HARRIS, Department of Wildlife, Humboldt State University, Arcata, California 95521

BEN HAWKINS, Department of Biology, College of the Redwoods, Eureka, California 95501

A fresh specimen of a Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) was found dead on a road near Loleta, Humboldt County, California, on 4 January 1989 by Jeff Apgar. This bird was erroneously reported by others in *American Birds* (43:363) as having been picked up by J. Aggan during the period 12-16 December 1988. The bird apparently had been hit by a car. It was delivered by Mr. Apgar to Hawkins, who donated it to the Humboldt State University, Department of Wildlife Museum. The specimen (H.S.U. 7749) has been mounted as part of the educational program at Humboldt State University. This is only the second record of this species in California and extends the range of the species far to the northwest of any previous record. The previous California specimen was reported in *American Birds* (41:140) and by S. F. Bailey (1989, *W. Birds* 20:93-95).

The Loleta bird is an immature male in fresh plumage. It weighed 110 grams when prepared on 24 January 1989. The wing chord measured 222 mm, the total length, 330 mm. Both testes were 2 mm long and 1 mm wide. The combination of large size, lack of white in the plumage, and lateral filaments at the base of the rectal bristles identify the specimen as a Chuck-will's-widow. The record has been accepted by the California Bird Records Committee (D. Roberson pers. comm.).

The bird had an empty gullet, but the gizzard was packed with brownish fibers and a few recognizable insect fragments, among them, the remains of two moths and one beetle. It also contained one seed of Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*). Although the bird had no or little visceral fat and only a slight amount of subcutaneous fat around the base of the tail and over the small of the back, it was in good flesh, not emaciated, and its weight was only slightly smaller than the average for breeding birds as summarized by Bailey (1989).

Accepted 26 March 1990