

PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK STATE RARITIES

22. *Chuck-will's-widow*



Photograph by Arthur Swoger

Central Park, New York Co., 13 May, 1972.

The Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) is a southern species whose breeding range currently extends north along the Atlantic coast as far as central New Jersey. According to D. Fables (*Annotated List of New Jersey Birds*, 1955. Urner Ornithological Club) it first appeared in New Jersey in southern Cape May Co. in 1922 where it remained rare until the early 1950s. Over the past 20 years it has expanded north to Leeds Point, Atlantic Co. (verb. comm., P. William Smith), only 70 miles south of New York State. It is a migratory species and has been recorded both spring and fall northward into Canada. Despite its closeness as a breeding species it has been recorded in New York State only 9 times, no doubt due to its nocturnal habits. Three of the 9 records (nos. 4, 5, and 6) are probably repeats of the same returning individual, possibly the forerunner of others to come. The climate and oak-pine habitat found along Long Island's south shore are quite similar to areas now inhabited by Chuck-will's-widows in New Jersey.

The New York State records are:

1. Adult female collected at Riverhead, Suffolk Co. on 2 May, 1933

- by Roy Latham (Bull, 1964. *Birds of the New York Area*. Harper and Row, New York).
2. Heard, 19 May, 1959 at Rochester, Monroe Co. by Joseph W. Taylor (*Kingbird* 9:78, 1959).
 3. Mist-netted, banded, and photographed, 1 June, 1961 at Braddocks' Bay, Monroe Co. by G. Leubner and W. Listman. After its release it remained until 1 July (*Kingbird* 11:149, 1961).
 4. Heard and recorded, 27-30 May, 1969 at Islip, Suffolk Co. by Mona Boch, et al (*Kingbird* 19:148, 1969).
 5. Heard, "second week of June" - 21 July, 1970 at East Islip, Suffolk Co. by 'mob' (*Kingbird* 20:206, 1970).
 6. Heard, "early May - June," 1971 at East Islip, Suffolk Co. by Robert Budliger, et al (*Kingbird* 21:179, 1971).
 7. Heard, 29-31 May, 1971 at Point O' Woods, Suffolk Co. by Steve Hopkins - a previously unpublished report, "Whip-poor-wills calling at same time."
 8. Observed and photographed, 13 May, 1972 at Central Park, New York Co. by 'mob' (see H. Tetrault, *Kingbird* 22:, 1972). Both Sidney Bahrt and Arthur Swoger obtained recognizable photographs of this bird. Swoger's shot reproduced above) was taken with Ektachrome-X. film using a 640 mm. Novaflex lens and electronic flash.
 9. Heard, 26 May, 1972 at Easthampton, Suffolk Co. by Richard Koeppel (*Kingbird* 22: 00, 1972).

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NEW YORK CITY RARE BIRD ALERT

The telephone number of the New York City Rare Bird Alert has been changed to (212) 832 6523. It will be under the general sponsorship of the National Audubon Society, but will continue to be prepared by the members of the Linnaean Society, and data for it should be directed to them.