

Chuck-Will's-Widow in Connecticut.—On 26 June 1969 I found a Chuck-Will's-Widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) dead on a road near Stoney Creek, New Haven County, Connecticut. This is the second specimen record of this species for Connecticut. The first specimen was found in New Haven, 10 miles west of Stoney Creek, on 17 May 1889 (Sage and Bishop, *The birds of Connecticut*, Connecticut Geol. and Nat. Hist. Survey, Hartford 1913). The bird is now in the Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University (No. 85435).

The bird was an adult female with the ovary slightly enlarged (five ova measured 2 mm in diameter) and it had little fat. It showed no body or tail molt but the first three primary flight feathers on each wing were new. The stomach was filled with 68 small white geometrid moths (*Ennomos subsignarius*) and six June beetles (*Phyllorhaga* sp.). The stomach contents reflect the unusually high population peak of this geometrid moth that occurred in Connecticut during late June.—EUGENE S. MORTON, *Department of Biology, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, (Present address: Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Box 2072, Balboa, Canal Zone), 12 August 1969.*

Predation of a Black Rat Snake on Yellow-shafted Flicker Nestlings.—At 18:45 on 10 June 1968, five miles north of Burlington, Des Moines County, Iowa, I observed the predation of a black rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta*) on a nest of half-grown Yellow-shafted Flickers (*Colaptes auratus*). Predation of rat snakes on birds is not unusual and predation on nestling woodpeckers has been previously mentioned (Nolan, *Wilson Bull.*, 71:381-382, 1959; Noland, *The Kentucky Warbler*, 36:29-30, 1960; Stickel, *Auk*, 79:118-119, 1962). Of particular interest in this case is the extraordinary climbing ability exhibited by this snake and the apparent passivity with which the adult bird let its nest be robbed.

The nest tree, a dead American elm (*Ulmus americana*) approximately four feet in diameter at breast height, had no bark and was worn quite smooth by weather. There were no branches on the tree between the ground and the nest branch, though the trunk was much convoluted near the base. There were no evident holes other than the nest hole and the tree did not appear to be hollow. The nest was about 20 feet above the ground in a branch extending southeast from the trunk at a 45 degree angle. At the nest entrance the diameter of the limb was approximately 15 inches. The only apparent way for the snake to have reached the nest was by climbing the smooth, featureless surface of the tree.

When first observed, the snake was in the nest with only the last eight inches of tail extending from the hole. A female flicker, presumably one of the parent birds, was perched quietly in a second dead elm 30 yards away in line of sight with the nest hole. This bird remained in its position for 45 minutes before it quietly left, never approaching the nest tree.

About five minutes after I discovered the nest the snake's head appeared in the hole with a young flicker in its mouth. The bird, being swallowed tail first, was about half the size of an adult, had contour feathers just emerging from their sheaths, and appeared to have just opened its eyes. The nestling was lifeless. At first staying tight against the surface of the limb, the snake slowly began weaving back and forth and slightly up and down from one side of the limb to the other. Two large swollen areas evidenced previous victims, presumably other flicker nestlings. The weaving and contortions about the nest hole appeared to be aiding in the swallowing of the third victim, though 20 minutes later the head and one wing still protruded from the snake's mouth. At this