

other records of the species from that country. It is therefore probably worth while to place on record a specimen in the U. S. National Museum (No. 30,966 U. S. N. M., unsexed, Napo Ecuador, collected by C. R. Buckalew) in the red phase, which, like the former specimen, may be referred to *Otus choliba crucigerus* (Spix).—LEON KELSO, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

**Chuck-will's-widow again in Maryland.**—Just after sundown on the evening of August 14, 1932, we heard a Chuck-will's-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*) at Clements, St. Mary County, Maryland. The bird was in thick woods composed chiefly of deciduous trees with many gums and here and there a pine, or a small group of pines, and called repeatedly for several minutes apparently from a pine tree within about fifty feet. Whip-poor-wills are abundant in this locality, and the difference in the notes of the two birds was easily appreciated.—AUSTIN H. CLARK and L. G. FORBES, *Washington, D. C.*

**Chuck-will's-widow, a New Bird for Ohio.**—On the evening of May 14, 1932, Mr. Conrad Roth, my brother, John S. Thomas and I, while cruising over the roads of Adams County, Ohio, near West Union, listening for the notes of a rare species of cone-headed grasshopper, were arrested by a strange bird song. We were able to flush the singer and were satisfied from its song and by its appearance in the moonlight that we had found the Chuck-will's-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*).

Three or four other singing individuals were noted in the immediate vicinity. The birds were in rather open, hilly country, about half of the area being covered with second growth woods—patches of oak, hickory and red-cedar, with some sugar maples in the moister situations. Whip-poor-wills were heard commonly, but were not noted in the immediate vicinity of any singing Chuck-will's-widow.

Four days later, Mr. Roth returned to the spot and collected a singing male, which was skinned and prepared by Mr. Charles F. Walker, and is now specimen No. 3875 in the Ohio State Museum collection. Mr. Roth informs me that there were at least eight individuals singing on the second occasion.

So far as I can ascertain this is the first record of this species for Ohio, although members of the Wheaton Club have been on the alert for it in southern Ohio for some time. Although Mr. Roth has a keen ear for bird and insect notes, he has never previously recognized the song of this bird during his extensive field-trips in both Scioto and Adams Counties.—EDWARD S. THOMAS, *Ohio State Museum, Columbus, Ohio.*

**Nocturnal Habits of the Chimney Swift.**—While the Chimney Swift is generally regarded as a crepuscular feeder, it is not infrequently seen coursing rapidly back and forth high in the air in bright mid-day. Records of its feeding at night, however, seem to be almost wanting.

On a number of occasions during the period of migration when these

birds are assembled in large flocks, they have been observed at night circling the great dome of our national capitol, feeding on the small insects attracted there by the powerful flood lights. The writer first observed this activity in the fall of 1929. He again observed it for about a week during both the spring and fall migrations of 1930. On the evening of April 26, 1931, a great swarm numbering several thousands was observed feeding until the lights illuminating the dome were turned off shortly after midnight. This was repeated each night until (and including) May 2. Throughout the week the flock remained about the same size. No large flock was again observed at night during the remainder of that spring or summer and capitol guards reported that none assembled there.

On the nights when flocking occurred at the capitol, the birds began to arrive in small groups from all directions about sundown, and by the time they normally would have been going to roost they had formed into one great swarm. For the first fifteen or twenty minutes after sundown the birds foraged over the tree tops and flew in all directions without any apparent system to their movements, except that they remained in a rather restricted area. Gradually, as it grew darker, a greater number were seen to fly more or less in the same general circular direction; in other words, there was a distinct impression of group movement. About the time the lights came on or shortly thereafter, all were following a definite course. Each time flocks of incoming birds disrupted the rhythm and unison of the concentric flight there was a momentary disbanding. When they reformed, however, all seemed instinctively to fly in the same direction. Most often the flight was uniformly circular, but occasionally it took the form of a conical cloud somewhat resembling a cyclone funnel. On one occasion it was seen to form a great figure "8" with one loop at a lower elevation than the other.

Probably because of the great concentration of light in a limited area, the greatest flocking occurred over the lawns and trees west of the building. As the birds came within the lighted area, they at first flew low over the lamp posts that surround the first floor, then gradually ascended in their concentric flight until they reached the dome. While the flock nearly always circled in one direction, each individual would fly in more or less zig zag fashion feeding upon small insects, but following the same general course. As the birds often flew within three or four feet of the observer while he was on the upper balcony of the dome, they could distinctly be seen catching the insects. Frequently small groups made short excursions into the darkness at a considerable distance from the dome, but each time they promptly returned.

Frequent observations were made throughout the summer of 1931, and from August 2 to the close of migration (late in October) a visit was made to the capitol each evening after dark. On three occasions during the summer one or two swifts were observed feeding near the lighted dome. Practically every night from one to fifty bats were observed. Two evenings, between nine and ten o'clock, a nighthawk was seen to pass through

the lighted area. Two Black-crowned Night Herons and three domestic pigeons were also noted at different times.

During the fall migration of 1931, when the swifts were known to assemble in great flocks for the night, I was somewhat surprised to find that on no occasion did the birds gather at the capitol for night feeding. During the spring migration of 1932 continued observation was made and it was not until the evening of May 4 that any concentration of swifts occurred over the capitol grounds. This particular night was cloudy and the lights were not turned on until almost dark—fully fifteen minutes late. After the lights came on the birds did not come within the lighted area and after ten minutes more of circling they separated into two large flocks and disappeared over the city. The next evening was clear and warm and the birds began to assemble at the capitol before sundown. Throughout this entire evening until after dark when the birds separated into a number of smaller flocks and disbanded, they did not come within the lighted area, but remained over the lawn and trees west of the building. On the 6th, 7th, and 8th no concentration of birds appeared, but on the evening of the 9th approximately 2,000 gathered and came within the lighted area near the dome. When they first came into the light the majority of the birds left the flock and foraged in the light over both the Senate and House wings. In about three minutes they reassembled into one flock and circled the dome—the area of greatest light concentration—where they remained until the lights were turned off shortly after midnight. This flock was probably not more than half the size of other flocks that had been observed at the capitol. Perhaps the majority of the birds of the original flocks had migrated northward.

On succeeding evenings no flocking appeared at the capitol until May 14 when a small group of about one hundred came near the dome at 7:23 p. m. They circled the dome three times and then disappeared over the city. No swifts were observed at nights after that date.

A probable explanation for the retarded and sporadic night flying of these accomplished fliers at the capitol in the spring of 1932 and their entire absence there in the fall of 1931, may be found in the temporary removal of four large flood lights on the west portion of the building. These four illuminators represented a total of 8,000 watts of electric power and were removed early in September 1931 when improvements on the steps and walks in front of the building were begun.

It is quite probable that swifts occasionally feed at night in well lighted zones over cities. At 9:45 p. m. on May 20, 1931, their characteristic sharp twittering notes were heard over Lafayette Park in Washington. Again at 11 p. m. on this same evening a number were heard several times over the vicinity of F and 7th Streets N. W. The fact that the night was unusually dark and cloudy with intermittent light showers, appeared to make no difference to the birds. Because this particular day and one or two preceding had been somewhat stormy and cooler it may have reduced the normal food supply, thus compelling the birds to feed at night.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*