

GENERAL NOTES

Sooty Tern feeding on moths.—While banding Sooty Terns (*Sterna fuscata*) at Bush Key, Dry Tortugas, Florida on 28 June 1970, an adult tern regurgitated two moths 1.5 to 2 cm long together with several unidentified fish. Later we found four more such moths among food items we had collected earlier from Sooty Terns. The moths were in poor shape and could be identified only to the family Noctuidae, of which at least two species were present.

Although the food of Sooty Terns at the Dry Tortugas has not yet been studied in detail, sizable collections of food regurgitated by birds caught for banding show that this population feeds on fish and squid as is reported for other colonies (Ashmole, Ibis, 103b: 333, 1963; Ashmole and Ashmole, Bull. Peabody Mus. Nat. Hist., 24: 33–34, 1967). In 13 years of tern banding at the Tortugas by the second author, this is the first time an insect has been found as part of the Sooty Tern's diet. The only other record of a Sooty Tern feeding on an insect that we are aware of is that of a hurricane-blown bird collected in New Jersey that had grasshoppers in its throat and stomach (Woolfenden, Wilson Bull., 69: 181, 1957).

Sooty Terns normally capture their prey at the sea surface or in the air just above it (Ashmole and Ashmole, op. cit.; 76–77). Presumably the Sooty Terns captured these moths as they flew near the water in an area where Sooties were feeding actively on their more usual prey. The Noctuidae are a large group and at least 20 species have been collected at Dry Tortugas (Kimball, Arthropods of Florida, vol. 1, Lepidoptera of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, Florida Dept. Agriculture, 1965).

H. A. Denmark, F. W. Mead, and C. P. Kimball kindly assisted in identifying the moths.—JAMES J. DINSMORE, *Department of Zoology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida 32601*, and WILLIAM B. ROBERTSON, JR., *Office of Natural Science Studies, U. S. National Park Service, Everglades National Park, Homestead, Florida 33030*. Present address of first author: *Department of Natural Science, University of Tampa, Tampa, Florida 33606*. Accepted 1 Apr. 71.

Wing clapping in territorial and courtship behavior of the Chuck-will's-widow and Poor-will (Caprimulgidae).—A frequent behavior of the European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) is a habit often called "wing clapping." This involves production of a sharp, repeated sound like the cracking of a whip or the snapping of a twig. Produced several to many times in succession, apparently always in flight, evidently it is made with the wings. A form of social behavior associated especially with courtship, wing clapping usually is done by the male, but rarely also by the female. Details and history are given by Coward (1928), Witherby et al. (1938: 252–253), Guggisberg (1941), and Bannerman (1955: 26).

Few records of this behavior exist for other species of goatsuckers. Hoyt (1953) referred briefly to the "strange clapping sound" in a recording of the Chuck-will's-widow (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*) made by P. P. Kellogg and Arthur A. Allen, and Sutton (1967: 268) wrote that he did not know how Chuck-will's-widows made "the sharp, several-times-repeated, cracking noise they sometimes produce at a favorite song perch, or just as they are leaving the perch." Harper (1938: 13) mentioned once hearing a "remarkable sort of wing popping sound" that seemed to come from a flying Chuck-will's-widow. Now more detailed observations may be added, involving two species.