

Arthur T. Wayne, in 'The Warbler' describes the nest and eggs taken by him near Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, June 10, 1903, accompanied by a color plate of the eggs, and a photograph of the male, female, nest and eggs, then in the collection of the late John Lewis Childs.

The bird, however, still remains more sparingly represented in collections than perhaps any other existing species of eastern North America. Mr. John E. Thayer is thus very fortunate in possessing what is probably the largest series in any collection from any one place, having a dozen specimens all taken at Tuckerton, New Jersey, in 1914 and 1915. This series includes a downy young about two days old, and two half-grown young.

I am under special obligations to Mr. Outram Bangs who very kindly revised this manuscript for me and also for loan of specimens by the American Museum, United States National Museum, Philadelphia Academy and Mr. John E. Thayer.

*Highland Park, Illinois.*

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## DESCRIPTION OF A NEW CLAPPER RAIL FROM THE COLORADO RIVER VALLEY.

BY DONALD R. DICKEY.

FIELD work carried on during the spring of 1921 in the Colorado River Valley, Imperial County, California, by Laurence M. Huey and Mrs. May Canfield, in behalf of the author's collection, resulted in the utterly unexpected capture of three individuals of a distinct new species of Clapper Rail. This species is described below.

### ***Rallus yumanensis* sp. nov.**

#### YUMA CLAPPER RAIL

*Type*.—Male adult; no. J 1039, Collection of Donald R. Dickey; Bard, Imperial County, California; altitude 140 feet; May 15, 1921; collected by Mrs. May Canfield; original no. 229.

*Specific Characters*.—Nearest in appearance to certain examples of *Rallus levipes*, but instantly separable from typical *levipes* by duller and more olivaceous outer superior wing-coverts and alula, by paler coloration of underparts and more slender tarsus and bill. Differs from *Rallus*

*obsoletus* of the San Francisco Bay region in smaller foot, shorter and much more slender tarsus and bill, and in brighter and more pinkish fore-neck and breast. Differs from *Rallus longirostris saturatus* of the Gulf coast in brighter and more pinkish underparts, in generally narrower white barring on sides and flanks, and more whitish abdomen; also in straighter, more slender, and much shorter bill, and in more slender tarsus.

*Description of type.*—Forehead and crown between buffy brown and olive-brown, the feathers with stiff, shiny, blackish brown shafts; occiput and upper cervix deep sepia; middle cervix similar but lighter, with paler edgings; lower cervix, back, and scapulars between olive-brown and clove brown on the broad central stripes of the feathers, with margins between drab and grayish olive; rump, upper tail-coverts, and tail olive-brown, with median shafting of a darker tone of the same color along the vanes of the feathers; primaries, primary coverts, and secondaries mummy brown; tertials like scapulars; exposed surface of greater wing-coverts Saccardo's umber; sides of head hair brown; lower eyelid dull white; supra-loral stripe buffy white; malar stripe light pinkish cinnamon, fading to nearly white anteriorly; sides of neck like middle portion of cervix, but suffused with light pinkish cinnamon; chin and throat white, merging into the color of malar stripe and jugulum without sharp line of demarcation; jugulum and breast avellaneous, tinged with cinnamon laterally, and paling to light avellaneous on middle of breast; abdomen dull creamy white; sides barred with white to a width of 1 mm. to 2 mm., with olive-brown interspaces 7 mm. to 8 mm. wide; flanks and crissum similar but lighter and more grayish, the outermost feathers of crissum being nearly all white on outer webs; tibiae drab posteriorly, dull creamy white anteriorly; lining of wing similar to flanks, but with even narrower and more wavy bars of dull white; bill (dry) ochraceous-orange, darkening to olive-brown terminally, and to bister along culmen; feet (dry) bister.

*Range.*—So far as known, the fresh water riparian strip along the Colorado River above Yuma, and adjacent irrigation canals in the vicinity of Laguna Dam. The dates of capture, together with a field notation by the collector (May 27, "Laying") definitely indicate summer residence in this region and association. The winter range is at present unknown.

*Remarks.*—Comparison has been made with fifty-six individuals of the three species which surround, in a geographic sense, the species proposed herewith. The depth of bill at nostril, depth of bill at base, length of exposed culmen, and tarsal diameter are considered by the describer critical mensural characters for this species. A definite hiatus in these four characters seems sufficient basis for precluding suspicion of any close genetic relationship with *obsoletus*, in spite of certain color analogies. The equally definite mensural hiatus between *yumanensis* and *saturatus* in depth of

## MEASUREMENTS

## MALES

Specimens Examined	Wing		Tail		Tarsus		Tarsal Diam. <sup>3</sup>		Toe <sup>4</sup>		Culmen		Bill Depth at Base <sup>5</sup>		Bill Depth at Nostril	
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
<i>R. yumanensis</i>	156.	156.	71.0	71.0	51.5	51.5	5.8	5.8	46.0	46.0	58.0	58.0	12.5	12.5	8.1	8.1
<i>R. obsolētus</i>	163.	166.	68.0	71.7	51.8	63.3	6.1	7.9	49.0	55.0	58.5	65.0	13.4	14.3	9.3	10.5
<i>R. l. saturatus</i>	147.	162.	60.0	70.0	51.0	58.0	6.1	6.4	45.0	52.5	59.5	69.0	13.0	14.5	8.8	10.0
<i>R. levisipes</i>	146.	162.	61.0	70.5	46.0	57.5	5.6	7.5	44.5	53.0	54.0	61.5	13.0	16.0	8.1	11.0

## FEMALES

<i>R. yumanensis</i>	142.	146.	62.0	63.0	50.0	50.0	5.1	5.5	44.0	45.0	53.5	53.5	11.8	11.8	67.4	7.4
<i>R. obsolētus</i>	146.	151.	61.0	70.0	50.0	54.5	6.0	7.2	46.0	50.0	59.5	59.5	11.5	13.0	8.5	9.4
<i>R. l. saturatus</i>	139.	144.	58.0	65.0	50.0	51.0	5.4	5.9	43.3	44.0	43.8	62.0	12.0	13.0	7.8	8.3
<i>R. levisipes</i>	138.	154.	57.0	68.5	45.5	52.0	5.5	6.4	43.0	47.0	45.5	50.0	11.5	13.5	7.9	9.0

<sup>1</sup> Type—Coll. D. R. D.<sup>2</sup> Paratypes—Coll. D. R. D.<sup>3</sup> Being the greatest or flat diameter taken at median point of tarsus.<sup>4</sup> Middle toe, without claw.<sup>5</sup> Distance from base of exposed culmen to nearest point on bottom line of bill.<sup>6</sup> One bird used; bill of other paratype imperfect.

bill at nostril, depth of bill at base, and culmen length, together with the difference in shape of bill and the brighter breast coloration of *yumanensis* seem to set the latter off with equal specific certainty from the Gulf bird, at least on the basis of published data and available specimens.

Interesting problems are also suggested as a result of a careful comparison of *yumanensis* with *levipes*. The latter, in what may be considered its large, highly colored, typical form is at once separable from *yumanensis*. However, our own examination of twenty-nine specimens of *levipes* has disclosed two individuals (Nos. F 52 and F 53, Coll. D.R.D.) from National City, San Diego County, California, which superficially seem to bridge the gap between these species both in measurements and in general coloration. However, the outer superior wing-coverts and alula, even in these unusual specimens, are distinctly brighter than the same areas in the three specimens of *yumanensis* examined. Despite this difference, these two specimens of *levipes* might still suggest the idea of specific identity between *levipes* and *yumanensis* to some ornithological workers. The writer is perhaps unduly hesitant in making inferences of this sort. It is his firm conviction that there would be grave danger in implying close genetic relationship and specific identity from this general indication of physical similarity, cropping up as it does in such a small minority of individuals. He therefore proposes the specific binomial concept for a bird that will in all probability prove to be geographically isolated; that exhibits a definite hiatus in several important physical characters; and that occupies a unique ecologic niche. In the latter connection it is interesting to note that we here have a true Clapper Rail inhabiting for the first recorded instance a purely fresh water environment.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. H. S. Swarth calls my attention to an earlier specimen listed from Yuma, Ariz., and probably of this species (*Pacif. Coast Avifauna*, 10, p. 17).

thanks are due. In addition, a further word of appreciation is due Dr. Oberholser for his unexampled offer of certain manuscript notes,—an appreciation which is in no wise lessened by my own inability to bring myself to make personal use of the results of his investigations.

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## SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF DUTCHESS COUNTY, N. Y.

BY MAUNSELL S. CROSBY.

WHEN the Rhinebeck Bird Club issued 'A Preliminary List of the Birds of Dutchess County, N. Y.,' (1921) lack of funds made it impossible to annotate the various species as fully as was desirable and, as indicated in the prefatory remarks, its chief object was to stimulate local students to further field work, the writer having in mind the eventual publication of a completely annotated list, after he should have obtained all possible assistance from his fellow-students and visited every corner of the fairly large area embraced by the report.

As some of the observations thus obtained are of sufficient interest to warrant publication, they are given herewith. Seven species have been added to the original number of 229 and two have been relegated to the hypothetical list until better proof of their occurrence is obtained. Further, the year 1921 was so unusual on account of the very early migration of many species of land birds both in spring and autumn, that the earliest dates of arrival have been advanced in a great number of instances, and so all species are mentioned whose dates of earliest arrival or latest departure have been altered. The name of the observer is given when other than the writer. Species added to the list are indicated by an asterisk.

A few words concerning the territory covered will not be amiss. According to the United States Department of Agriculture's 'Soil Survey of Dutchess County, New York,' issued March 30, 1909, it is bounded by the Hudson River on the west, by the State of Connecticut and less than a mile of the State of Massachusetts on the east, by Columbia County on the north and by Putnam