

Some Rail Traits.—At about noon on June 11, 1928, I observed a Florida Clapper Rail (*Rallus crepitans scotti*) with a fiddler crab (*Uca* sp.) in its beak, walking along the bank of a drainage ditch through a marsh at Apalachicola, Franklin County, Florida. I stood scarcely fifteen feet away and watched while he carried the crab and presented it to a smaller bird with distinctly lighter underparts, presumably the female. She in turn gave the tid-bit to a small black chick which came out of the grass. The chick seized it eagerly and tried to swallow it but without success and dropped it to the ground. The female picked it up and once more offered it to the chick, which tried again to swallow it but in vain. After this was repeated several times the female became alarmed at my nearness and gave a warning cluck upon which the chick disappeared into the grass. The female then swallowed the crab.

The male had fed down the bank of the ditch and the female now turned upstream, frequently giving a sharp cluck and bobbing her tail. She soon caught a small minnow which she carried about for two or three minutes in indecision, passing back and forth in front of where the young were hiding. She finally swallowed the minnow and then retreated into the grass. In the meantime the male had crossed to my side of the ditch and allowed me to approach within ten feet before he flew back again.

On June 26, near the same place I saw four baby rails, still black and about two-thirds the size of their mother. They were surprisingly tame and allowed me to approach quite near. One of them readily swam the drainage ditch which was about eight feet wide and the other three hid in the grass. When I came near they gave the characteristic rail call.—FRANK F. GANDER, *O' Rourke Zoological Institute, Balboa Park, San Diego, California.*

A Dead Clapper Rail Found at Lexington, in the Valley of Virginia.—Early in November, 1928, Miss Emily Penick, of Lexington, Va., told me of having seen what she thought was a Woodcock caught in a fence and dead on a country road three miles from Lexington. I thought little of it until on passing the place on November 9 I examined the bird. I saw at once that it was a rail, but it was strange to me and so dishevelled that I could not identify it with certainty. The bird was caught in the abdomen on a hook on one of the upper strands of a barbed-wire fence and appeared to have beaten itself to death on the wires. The carcass was in bad shape, but the body was not mashed and the flesh was practically intact. It was not at all decayed, had no odor, and was hard and dried out. The feathers were very much ruffled and soiled with dust from the road, and rain, but very few of them were lost. How it stayed there for at least a week in plain sight, without having been eaten by a vulture, I do not know. The spot was on a rather unfrequented country road, some three hundred yards from where the road left the Lee Highway. At the point the road passes through an upland pasture. No water of any consequence is anywhere near, nothing more