Furthermore, slugs can not be startled into jumping, running, or flying. The wing-flashing motions of the Catbird may have been released when it saw objects (the slugs) not clearly identifiable as food.—H. Lewis Batts, Jr., *Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Michigan.*

Pellet Casting by King and Clapper Rails.—The King Rail (*Rallus elegans*) and Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris*), whose major food is crustaceans, reject the exoskeletal fragments of these animals through the regurgitation of pellets. Seven King Rail pellets collected in Dorchester County, Maryland, averaged 2.0 cm long by 1.5 cm wide.

King Rail pellets examined in Arkansas and Maryland were composed of crayfish (*Cambarus* sp.) and aquatic insect fragments. Many pellets examined contained the hard, cylindrical, convex-shaped gastrolith of the crayfish. These gastroliths can be seen in the accompanying photograph. In brackish marshes near Woodland Beach,

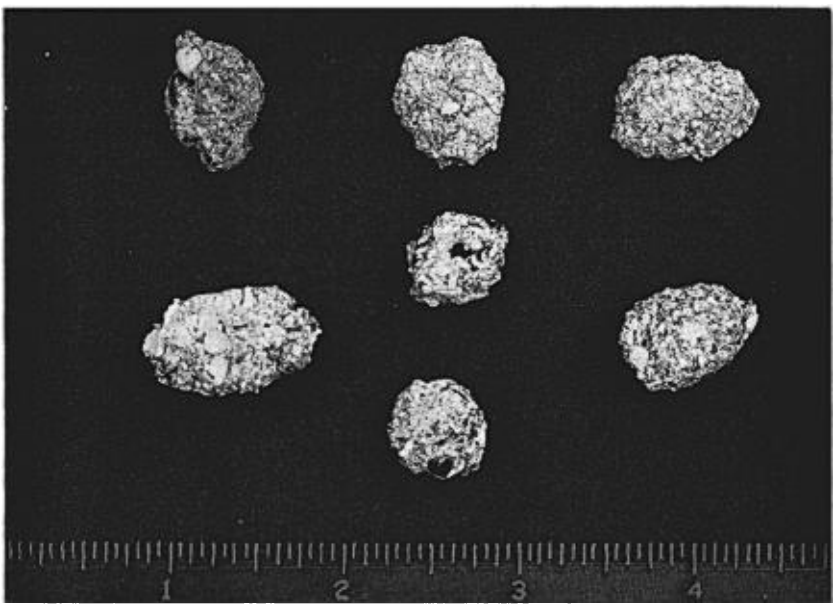

Figure 1. Regurgitated King Rail Pellets, Dorchester County, Maryland, June 1958. (Photograph by Frederick C. Schmid.)

Delaware, where King and Clapper rails occur together, pellets contained exoskeletal fragments of the red-jointed fiddler crab (*Uca minax*) and shell fragments of a clam (*Macoma balthica*).

Pellets usually are deposited in some concealed location where rails prefer to hide while consuming their prey. Characteristic deposition sites are along grassy runways, in a clump of bushes, or behind a clump of grass. However, in Delaware tidal marshes, a favorite deposition site is on a muskrat house or some other high spot in the marsh. As many as 14 pellets were found on a single muskrat house.

I know of no reference in the literature relative to pellet casting by King and Clapper rails except brief mention by the author of pellets found in Arkansas King Rail nests (*Auk*, 73: 253–254, 1956).—Brooke Meanley, *Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland.*