

- STIRLING, I. G. 1968. Aggressive behaviour and the dispersion of female Blue Grouse. *Can. J. Zool.* 46: 405–408.
- , & J. F. BENDELL. 1970. The reproductive behavior of Blue Grouse. *Syesis* 3: 161–171.
- ZWICKEL, F. C. 1977. Local variations in the time of breeding of female Blue Grouse. *Condor* 79: 185–191.
- , & A. N. LANCE. 1966. Determining the age of young Blue Grouse. *J. Wildl. Mgmt.* 30: 712–717.

Received 3 March 1978, accepted 19 December 1979.

First Records of the Spotted Rail (*Pardirallus maculatus*) on the Island of Hispaniola

ANNABELLE STOCKTON DOD

Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Plaza de la Cultura, César Nicolás Penson, Santo Domingo, Rep. Dominicana

On 17 April 1978, a bird watcher from San Francisco de Macoris brought a live rail to me for identification. He had purchased the individual from some boys who had captured it in a patch of grass in the center of a freshly plowed field (never before cultivated) at Madre Vieja, near the town of Nagua, Province of Maria Trinidad Sanchez, in the Dominican Republic.

My identification of the bird as a Spotted Rail (*Pardirallus maculatus*) was later confirmed by George Reynard and John Clements, who both saw it alive. A second bird, a male with enlarged testes, was taken in the same area on 29 June 1978 and was made into a study skin. A second specimen, taken alive at the edge of a rice field in Pimentel on 3 January 1978, died in captivity on 15 March 1978 and was injected with formalin. The two specimens are in the collection of the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural in Santo Domingo (MNHN #936 and MNHN #966). Upon investigating the general area where the birds were found, I learned that the Spotted Rail is also known from Cotuí, Rincón, municipality of San Francisco de Macoris, and Limón, all in the Yuna River basin, one of the principal rivers of Hispaniola.

George E. Watson has examined the specimens and reports that they are identical in color with Cuban and South American specimens, not with the darker, browner Central American population (*P. m. insolitus*). Although Parkes et al. (1978, *Amer. Birds* 32: 295) found that Cuban birds tended to have longer bills than South American birds, the two Hispaniolan birds have short bills (45.5 mm, and broken). Because of the variation in color and pattern as well as in bill length in Greater Antillean birds, Watson (1962, *Wilson Bull.* 74: 349; pers. comm.) does not recognize *P. m. inoptatus*.

Recent new records of the wanderings of Spotted Rails in the United States, Chile, Bolivia, and western Mexico (Parkes et al. 1978, *Amer. Birds* 32: 295) might suggest that Hispaniolan birds were vagrants or newly arrived colonists from Cuba, but Storrs Olson (pers. comm.) has examined bones from old cave deposits in the Dominican Republic that he has tentatively identified as *Pardirallus*. Allen Keith (pers. comm.) also reported an unconfirmed sighting of a Spotted Rail along the Black River, about 7 km inland in Jamaica, a location at which the bird was thought to be extinct (Bond, 1956, *Check-list of birds of the West Indies*, Philadelphia, Acad. Nat. Sci.). Because this species is hard to see and even harder to collect, it is likely that it has been an overlooked, long-time resident on Hispaniola.

I thank James Bond, Donald D. Dod, David Robinson, Francisco X. Gerales, and George E. Watson for their help with this article.

Received 14 August 1978, accepted 30 October 1979.

A Nest of the White-plumed Antbird (*Pithys albifrons*) in Surinam

JOHAN INGELS

Galgenberglaan 9, B-9120 Destelbergen, Belgium

The White-plumed Antbird (*Pithys albifrons*) is one of the birds that follows army ants in the undergrowth of northern South American forests. In Surinam, breeding records involve only collected speci-