

large fruit bats, *Pteropus*, were also killed by these electric wires. These bats also do considerable damage to fruit.

Since these parakeets, when they have formed flocks after the breeding season, have huge communal roosts, generally in a grove of large trees, they might be most easily controlled there. There was one such huge roost in a grove of large trees on the bank of the Jumuna River near the Taj Mahal at Agra. Parakeets roosted there by thousands. They generally arrived in parties of from a dozen to several hundred birds late in the evening during the last hour or so before sunset. At times the air would be filled with them and the din caused by their screaming and the thunder of their wings was indescribable.—WILLIAM C. DILGER, *Department of Conservation, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, July 14, 1953.*

Another New Rail from the Pleistocene of Florida.—In a recent paper (Wilson Bull., 64, 1952:80) I described *Laterallus guti*, a new species of rail from Pleistocene deposits at Reddick, Florida. This species differed from its living representative (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) in larger size and more robust form.

At another Pleistocene locality, at Haile, Florida, Mr. Walter Auffenberg collected a complete humerus of a second undescribed rail, but one which is referable to the genus *Porzana*. This species differs from the living Sora Rail (*Porzana carolina*) and is described as

***Porzana auffenbergi*, new species**

Type.—No. 742, collection of Pierce Brodkorb, complete left humerus; from Sangamon Stage of Pleistocene, in Stratum 2 (shell layer) near Haile, Alachua County, Florida, in Section 24, T. 9 S, R. 18 E; collected by Walter Auffenberg, April 17, 1953.

Characters.—Humerus agrees with *Porzana carolina* in proportions (see table 1), in well developed deltoid crest, distally produced entepicondyle, strong condyles, and stoutness. Differs from *P. carolina* in larger size, even better developed deltoid crest, and slightly more produced entepicondyle

Table 1

Measurements in Millimeters and Ratios of Humerus of Rails

Species	No. of species	Length	Proximal width	Width of shaft at center	Distal width	Proximal width to length	Shaft width to length	Distal width to length
<i>Porzana auffenbergi</i> (Middle Pleistocene)	4	39.0	7.8	2.6	5.6	20.0	6.7	14.7
<i>Porzana carolina</i> (Recent)	1	32.6–34.2	6.5–7.3	2.2–2.3	4.7–4.8	19.9–21.3	6.4–7.1	13.7–14.7
<i>Porzana carolina</i> (Pleistocene)	1, 2	33.7	7.2	2.3–2.4	4.8–5.0	21.3	6.8	14.8
<i>Rallus limicola</i> (Recent)	4	36.1–39.0	6.5–7.1	2.0–2.2	4.6–5.1	17.9–19.2	5.5–5.6	12.5–13.1
<i>Rallus limicola</i> (Pleistocene)	4	2.0–2.2	4.5–4.7
<i>Rallus prenticei</i> (Upper Pliocene)	1, 2	36.1	7.1	2.1–2.6	5.1–5.3	16.9	5.8	14.13

The humerus is about the same length as in the living Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) but it is considerably stouter and accordingly the width-length ratios are higher. Furthermore it differs from *R. limicola* in the better developed deltoid crest, the more distally produced entepicondyle, and the stronger condyles.

Porzana auffenbergi differs from *Rallus prenticei* Wetmore (Univ. Kansas Sci. Bull., 30, 1944:99), of the Upper Pliocene of Kansas, in the greater length of the humerus, the stouter shaft, the heavier distal end, with the epicondylar prominences and trochleae better developed, and the more produced entepicondyle. It agrees with *R. prenticei* in the long deltoid crest.

Elsewhere (Wilson Bull., 65, 1953:49-50) I have described the stratigraphy of the deposit at

Haile and have listed seven species of birds from it. As far as could be determined from the fragmentary remains, those previously reported all seemed to represent species still living in the vicinity. The rails are especially well represented, since of the eight species of birds now known from Haile, four belong to the Rallidae. In addition to the avian remains there occur a few mammals, some fishes, and a rich herpetological fauna, mainly of aquatic forms. The herpetological material is being studied currently by Mr. Auffenberg.

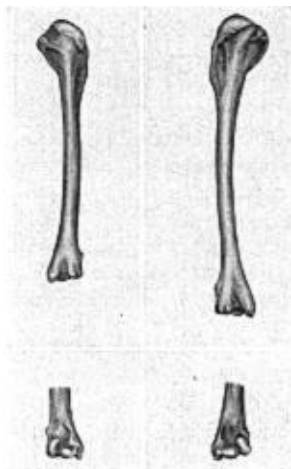


Fig. 1. Left, humerus of *Porzana carolina* (no. 455, Pleistocene). Right, *Porzana auffenbergi* (no. 742, Pleistocene). $\times 1$.

Fresh-water gastropods from the same stratum have been determined by William G. Fargo. They include: *Helisoma* near *disstoni* (Dall), *Helisoma* sp., *Succinea* sp., *Viviparus* sp., and *Ameria scalaris* Jay.

It might be thought that *Porzana auffenbergi* was the Pleistocene representative of the living Sora Rail. That such is not the case is shown by the presence in the Pleistocene of Reddick, Florida, of specimens indistinguishable from the living *Porzana carolina*. In figure 1 Miss Esther Coogle has drawn a fossil humerus of *P. carolina* for comparison with the type of *P. auffenbergi*. The living Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) also occurs in the Reddick Pleistocene, and the measurements of both these species from Reddick are included in table 1. It is thus apparent that *P. auffenbergi* was not the temporal representative of *P. carolina*, nor of the living Neotropical *P. flaviventer*, which is even smaller than *carolina*. Rather it is an additional species of American *Porzana* whose phyletic line has become extinct.—PIERCE BRODKORB, *Department of Biology, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, June 10, 1953.*

Ground Dove Nesting at Anaheim, California.—A pair of Ground Doves (*Columbigallina passerina*) was observed from February, 1952, to March, 1953, by the writer and residents at Anaheim, California. The doves raised two young, one of which was killed when it collided with the window of a house. The bird was given to James Robinson of the Biology Department of the Whittier High School. The nest, found after the birds had left it, was about five feet from the ground in an orange tree. The habitat was an uncared-for orange grove at the edge of town adjacent to a wash containing willows, *Baccharis* and other natural plants. The birds were seen to feed upon chickweed seeds; mustard was also present and may have been a source of food. Food and water were also provided by residents in the neighborhood.

I know of no other record of this species nesting in coastal California, although Peyton (Condor, 50, 1948:165) reports two birds near Santa Paula on August 20, 1947. The environment at Anaheim was similar to that described by him, except that no cottonwoods were present.