

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.

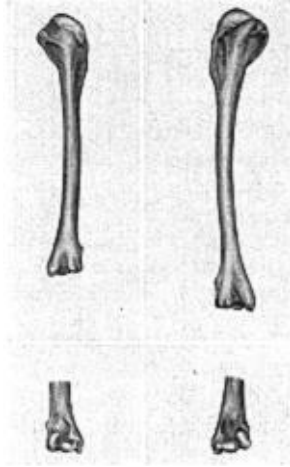


Fig. 1. Left, humerus of *Porzana carolina* (no. 455, Pleistocene). Right, *Porzana auffenbergi* (no. 742, Pleistocene).  $\times 1$ .

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.

During this same period I saw a pair of Ground Doves fly over the highway between Fullerton and Anaheim, and another individual was accurately described from an orange grove in another part of Anaheim. Residents in the nesting area say they have seen as many as five birds, so it is possible there are other nesting pairs.—J. H. COMBY, *Whittier, California, March 11, 1953.*

**Record of the Water-thrush in Oakland, California.**—On September 6, 1953, while walking through Dimond Canyon, Oakland, California, I observed a Water-thrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) feeding along the edge of the creek. The bird seemed quite unconcerned until approached to within twenty feet. It then flew to a nearby Bay Tree. Only once, while in the tree, did it utter an alarm note. It returned to the ground almost immediately and continued feeding in the company of a Song Sparrow. After several minutes, it became rather nervous and flew into a thicket. I did not see the bird again, nor was it seen again on a subsequent visit.—KENNETH SCHULZ, *Oakland, California, September 11, 1953.*

**A Census of Populations of the Wilson Snipe and Sora Rail in the Yampa River Valley, Colorado.**—During the spring and summer of 1953, breeding populations of the Wilson Snipe (*Capella delicata*) and the Sora Rail (*Porzana carolina*) were censused by the writer in conjunction with a waterfowl production study in the Yampa River Valley of Colorado. The Yampa Valley is a long narrow floodplain and canyon extending from headwaters on the White River Plateau to its confluence with the Green River in northwest Colorado. The valley varies from one-fourth mile in width in the canyons to about 10 miles in width shortly after its emergence onto the floodplain proper just southeast of Steamboat Springs. The water table along the entire non-canyon portion of the valley is high, and development of sedge and cattail marsh is extensive. This habitat, plus the oxbow and meandering stream areas, constitutes the waterfowl, snipe, and rail breeding grounds found in the region. The principal snipe and rail breeding grounds are situated at altitudes ranging from 6000 to 8000 feet.

Wilson Snipe were most frequently seen around flooded meadows, bogs, and willow swamps, apparently preferring the boglike areas containing dense growths of sedge (*Carex* sp.). Sora Rails were invariably found in the vicinity of small marshy areas vegetated with cattails (*Typha*) and bulrushes (*Scirpus*).

Table 1  
Territorial Snipe and Rails Observed on Study Areas

Area	Approximate elevation	Snipe		Rail breeding territories
		Breeding territories	Winnowing areas	
Stillwaters	9500	....	....	....
Phippsburg	7800	13	8	5
Steamboat Springs	6800	10	6	1
Tow Creek	6600	....	....	....
Carey Ranch	6400	8	4	5
Big Bottoms	6100	....	....	....
Duffey Mountain	5800	....	....	....
Juniper Springs	5700	....	....	1
Maybell	5600	1	2	....
Lily Park	5400	....	....	....
Total		32	20	12

Snipe were first observed in the valley in mid-April, but the greatest influx of birds was recorded in the first week of May. The first rails were seen on May 18, with the peak flight occurring early in June.

Winnowing flights of snipe were observed during May, June and July, the peak of activity being in June. Those winnowing flights during the early mornings were recorded in conjunction with waterfowl brood-counts. Territorial snipe and rails listed in table 1 were flushed as the observer walked through the study areas in search of waterfowl. Snipe or rails seen repeatedly in particular locations were recorded as territorial birds.