

As will be noted in Figure 2, in the juvenal plumage of the Mexican populations, the ventral barring so pronounced in the *R. m. maculatus* juveniles is obsolete or lacking. The underparts of Mexican juveniles appear uniform sooty to dark grayish olive, with obscure darker bars. Dorsally the *insolitus* juveniles are darker, more uniform and have little or no white spotting. The other two Mexican specimens have a little more dorsal spotting than the specimen illustrated. The younger specimen of *maculatus* from Trinidad is largely downy on the back with its juvenile feathers still sheathed. The edges of the back feathers of the juvenal plumage of *insolitus* are a darker brown than are those of *maculatus*. This had also been the principal character used to separate adults of the two subspecies, until Watson (op. cit.) called attention to the reduced white spotting of *insolitus* but deprecated the value of dorsal color. On the basis of examination of a larger series than was available to Watson, we note that, contrary to his findings, the edgings of fresh dorsal feathers of *insolitus* are indeed darker brown, but *not* significantly narrower, than those of *maculatus*.

The specimen from Paraguay, although in a more advanced stage of molt, was apparently similar to the other juvenile *maculatus*, indicated by its flanks, which are pale gray strongly barred with sooty. In the mid-ventral area it is less barred than the Argentina specimen, and more comparable to the Trinidad specimen. The undertail coverts of the juvenile specimens of *maculatus* from Argentina and Paraguay are dusky gray or white, broadly tipped with buff, whereas in the 3 juvenile *insolitus*, these feathers virtually lack any suggestion of buff; the white undertail coverts are tipped with sooty gray.

The Spotted Rail has usually been segregated in a monotypic genus *Pardirallus* Bonaparte (= *Limnopardalis* Cabanis in some reference works). We prefer to follow those authors (such as de Schauensee, The species of birds of South America, 1966: 77) who merge this genus with *Rallus*. The outline of feathering at the base of the bill used by Friedmann (ibid) to separate *Rallus* from *Pardirallus* and *Ortygonax* does not seem to us to be very important, and, in any case, most authors now merge *Ortygonax* in *Rallus*. If this is done, and in view of the diversity already included in *Rallus*, we do not see how *Pardirallus* can be maintained.

The 1963 specimen of *insolitus* will be deposited in the Minnesota Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota and the 1965 and 1966 specimens will be deposited in the collections of Cornell University and the Carnegie Museum.

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Porcupine quills found in foot of Sharp-shinned Hawk.—During the spring of 1968 the Ontario Bird-Banding Association sponsored a project of banding Sharp-shinned Hawks (*Accipiter striatus*) at Whitefish Point, Chippewa County, Michigan. The species is often numerous during spring migration on this peninsula which lies at the eastern end of Lake Superior and extends northeast toward the mainland of Ontario. We were present from 4–11 May and found hawks migrating during the entire period (especially

numerous on 8 May) although there were very few passerine birds present at any time to serve as prey species. On 11 May a female Sharp-shinned Hawk captured in a mist net was found to have three broken porcupine quills from one-half to one inch long in its left foot. These extended completely through the toes and had to be removed with tweezers. The bird had no food in its crop; in fact, of more than 60 hawks examined in the week, only four had full crops, attesting to a meager food supply. Although there are examples in the literature of Sharp-shinned Hawks attacking larger birds (Black-crowned Night Heron, Wood Duck, Common Crow, and domestic chickens), nothing was found regarding attacks on porcupines, dead or alive. The bird seemed to be in good condition, none the worse for its encounter, and flew away spiritedly when released.—ALICE KELLEY AND NEIL KELLEY, 3681 Forest Hill Drive, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, 31 May 1968.

The migration of the American Golden Plover through Surinam.—The American Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) has the fame of making a long transoceanic flight in autumn from Nova Scotia to northern South America and after a short stop proceeding to its winter quarters in Argentina. In spring the birds are said to return in a long overland flight more to the west of the southbound route over the Amazonian rain forest, then via central North America to the arctic breeding grounds so that the entire route is in the form of a giant ellipse. The map illustrating this supposed route dates from Cooke (U.S. Dept. Agr. Bull., 185:12, 1915) and still is one of the show pieces of bird migration which appears in even the latest handbook on migration by Dorst (The migrations of birds, 1962, p. 100) and even on the dustcover of Griffin (Bird migration, 1964). Lately Johnston and McFarlane (Condor, 69:165, 166, 1967) stated, in my opinion quite rightly, that some of these ideas perhaps deserve corrections and are at least unproven. As to the long oversea flight in autumn I might remark that recent field observations prove that there is quite a lot of island-hopping in the Caribbean. To mention only three authors: Pinchon (Faune des Antilles Françaises. Les Oiseaux, 1963, p. 37) states that in the French Antilles (perhaps pertaining to the main island Martinique though this is not specially mentioned) these birds are regular guests from the beginning of August till the end of November. The gunners of the island kill large numbers (“ils en font une hécatombe”) a practice which is, according to the author, “justified, it must be admitted, by the quality of the bird.” Mees (Junge and Mees, Zool. Verhandl. 37:27, 1958) saw a flock on 22 September 1953 on Trinidad which were still present when he left the island in December and French (Herklots, The birds of Trinidad and Tobago, 1961, p. 80) remarks that large flocks annually visit the golf course at Pointe à Pierre during September and October.

The handbooks further state—once more copying Cooke—that after a short stop on the north coast of South America the plovers resume their travel overland to the pampas of Argentina. One gets the impression that the birds are in a desperate hurry to reach their winter quarters. This too needs some correction as we now know—apart from the presence of Golden Plovers on some islands in the Caribbean during two to four autumn months—that the plovers remain in the northern part of continental South America for two or more months. Foster Smith (Friedmann and Smith, Proc. U.S. Natl. Mus. 100:458, 1950 and Proc. U.S. Natl. Mus. 104:490, 1955) says that the Golden Plover is quite common on savanna ponds in Venezuela during October and November and lists as extreme dates 18 September and 5 December. He also drew attention to the interesting habit of these birds feeding at night on the well-watered lawns in oil company camps. A similar situation exists in Surinam where the Golden Plover is a