

wind was from the northwest at 12–15 mph, the sky was overcast, and intermittent snow flurries were occurring; (2) the peak of Robin migration in east-central Illinois occurs between 20 March and 10 April (Graber et al., Illinois Nat. Hist. Surv. Biol. Notes (In press), 1971); and (3) at least some arboreal species—i.e., *Hylocichla* thrushes—do not select their typical diurnal habitat when landing in darkness (Cochran et al., Living Bird, 6:224, 1967). To our knowledge, this is the first recorded instance of Robins night-roosting in open fields.—WILLIAM L. ANDERSON, STANLEY L. ETTER, AND G. BLAIR JOSELYN, *Illinois Natural History Survey, Urbana, Illinois 61801, 8 February 1971.*

**Further notes on the juvenal plumage of the Spotted Rail (*Rallus maculatus*).**—Dickerman and Parkes (Wilson Bull. 81:207–209, 1969) described three sooty plumaged juvenile Spotted Rails (*Rallus maculatus*) from Mexico that differed strikingly from three juveniles from Trinidad and southern South America. The difference was suggested as the most diagnostic character of *R. m. insolitus*, the subspecies of Mexico and Central America. Haverschmidt found among his series of eight specimens of nominate *R. m. maculatus* from Surinam, now deposited in the Leiden Museum, a male in juvenal plumage collected 29 January 1966 at Marienburg, without black and white barring on its underparts (as mentioned in his "Birds of Surinam," 1968), which appeared identical to the Mexican specimen illustrated by Dickerman and Parkes (ibid.). A second specimen from his collection, a female collected at Paramaribo, 28 December 1966, is late in the first prebasic (postjuvenal) molt, but retains juvenal feathers on the throat, lower breast and abdomen. These feathers are distinctly barred with white. Thus two juveniles from Surinam exhibit the differences described by Dickerman and Parkes for the juveniles *R. m. insolitus* and *R. m. maculatus*.

These two juveniles and three adults from Surinam in Haverschmidt's collection were sent to the American Museum of Natural History where Dickerman was able to compare them with the three Mexican juveniles and ten other juvenile *R. m. maculatus*, including two very small flightless birds, one previously illustrated taken 23 September 1950 in the Caroni Swamp of Trinidad, and one taken 7 November 1961 at Concepcion, Corrientes Prov., Argentina. It appears that there are three distinct patterns and varying intermediate patterns of juvenal plumage. In all three phases the feathers of the lower belly and flanks are more strongly barred than are those of the breast and upper belly.

1. *Dark phase*—ventral feathers sooty, tipped with darker, lacking white barring (Fig. 1: see also illustration in Dickerman and Parkes, ibid.). Specimens examined: Mexico 3 (1 Veracruz, 2 Oaxaca); Surinam 1 (Marienburg); Brazil 2 (São Paulo). The latter specimens while dusky below, have feathers more strongly barred with pale buff, and thus are intermediate between the dark phase and the barred phase.
2. *Pale phase*—feathers of throat and breast pale grayish brown, the latter *weakly barred* with white. Specimens examined: Brazil 2 (São Paulo), Argentina 1 (Barrancas al Sud); Trinidad 1. The Argentine specimen is in late first prebasic molt and may be faded, but is more similar to the pale than to the barred phase. From the description in Dickerman and Parkes the juvenile from Paraguay (Field Museum Natural History) is also apparently of this color phase. The Trinidad specimen was illustrated in Dickerman and Parkes.
3. *Barred phase*—throat gray, feathers of breast and belly sharply barred with white, throat feathers spotted with white (see illustration Dickerman and Parkes, ibid.). Species examined: Argentina 2 (Barrancas al Sud and Concepcion); Brazil 2 (São Paulo); Surinam 1 (Paramaribo). The Surinam specimen is somewhat more

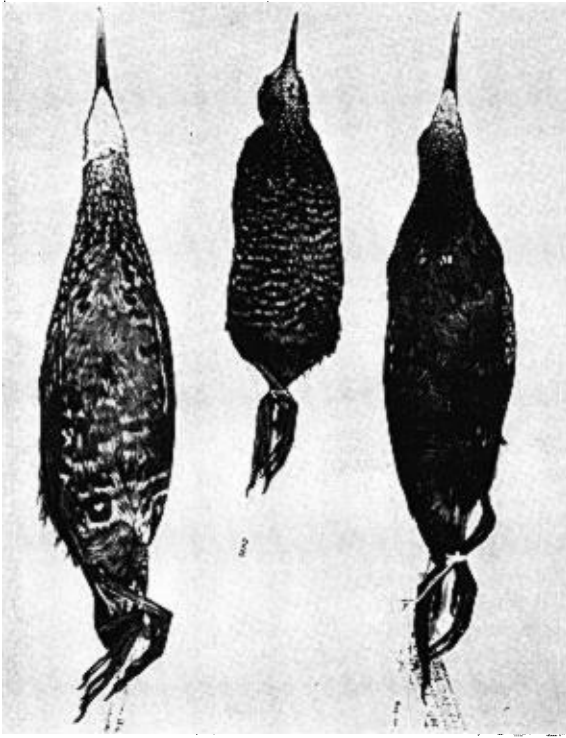


FIG. 1. Ventral view of three color phases of juvenal plumage of the Spotted Rail (*Rallus maculatus*); pale phase, left (Brazil, São Paulo) barred phase, center (Argentina, Concepcion), and dark phase, right (Surinam). Strongly contrasting feathers of pale phase bird are first basic plumage.

extensively gray below, but the ventral feathers are sharply barred with white. The two Brazilian specimens, intermediate between the pale and barred phase, are less barred on the breast than the illustrated specimen but have similar spotting on the throat.

Unfortunately there are apparently no specimens of juvenile *R. m. inoptatus* available (Watson, Wilson Bull. 83:349-356, 1962) for comparison with the series of juvenile *R. m. maculatus* and *R. m. insolitis*. Although the dusky phase that had been considered to be characteristic of *insolitis* is now known to be found in juveniles of the nominate form, there is one character of the juvenal plumage that permits separation of all specimens into their respective populations. As noted previously by Dickerman and Parkes the undertail coverts of juvenile *maculatus* are dusky gray or white broadly tipped with buff, whereas in the three juvenile *insolitis* these feathers virtually lack any suggestion of buff, their white undertail coverts being tipped with sooty gray.

The eight adult *insolitis* (2 Costa Rica and 6 Mexico) now available uniformly differ from adult *maculatus* in having white spots instead of streaks dorsally. The dorsal spots in *insolitis* (and streaks in the case of *maculatus*) are smaller in the first basic plumage than in latter "adult" plumages as indicated by comparisons of birds in late first prebasic

molt with adult birds taken in the breeding season. In contrast to the juvenal plumage the shorter dusky undertail coverts of the adults of both *insolitus* and *maculatus* may be tipped with buff. As noted by Watson (*ibid.*) there is some variation in the depth of color of the feather edgings of the back and wings. In *insolitus* these were described as being chocolate brown in contrast to paler edgings in *maculatus*. While individual birds may be matched in either series, *insolitus* averages considerably darker, and no *maculatus* specimen can match the darkest *insolitus*.

Mexican specimens were collected under permit from the Departamento de Conservacion de la Fauna Silvestre, Secretaria de Agricultura y Ganaderia. We thank the curators of the Leiden Museum, the Peabody Museum, Yale University, and the Carnegie Museum for permission to examine specimens in their care.—ROBERT W. DICKERMAN, *Department of Microbiology, Cornell University Medical College, New York, New York 10021*, AND F. HAVERSCHMIDT, *Wolfskuilstraat 16, Ommen, Holland, 19 June 1971 (Originally received 19 November 1970)*.

#### LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES AND MARGARET MORSE NICE AWARDS

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