

each evening feeding on the ground in and near the poultry pens. He estimates that there were from 12 to 20 doves in 1944 and that there were more individuals in 1944 than in 1943. He observed no nesting or mating activities. His last observation of the birds in 1944 was made about December 1, when seven were seen feeding on the ground at the poultry farm.

No attempt has been made yet to take a specimen from the small flock on the college campus because it has been felt that the continued presence of these doves in this new location may be dependent, for the time being, on the survival and freedom from critical disturbance of a very few individuals.—K. A. VALENTINE, *State College, New Mexico, January 4, 1945.*

**The Black Rail at Benicia, California.**—On July 18, 1941, the shop foreman at the government arsenal in Benicia, Solano County, California, informed me that he had a strange small bird which one of the workmen had caught outside of the shop building. Upon seeing the bird, I recognized

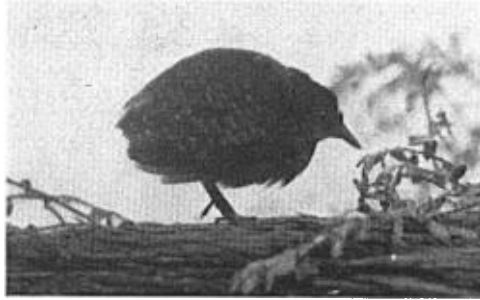


Fig. 12. Black Rail caught at Benicia, California.

it to be a California Black Rail (*Creciscus jamaicensis coturniculus*), although I had never been fortunate enough to see this species before. It appeared possible that the bird had flown against the side of a tall, brick smokestack which rises from the edge of the salicornia-carpeted marsh along the Carquinez Straits and adjacent to the shop, as it was caught in a stunned condition.

My son improvised an outdoor cage for the bird and provided water and food which we thought might be acceptable. It ate nothing so far as we could observe and died on the third day after its capture. I preserved the skin, which is now in my collection.—EMERSON A. STONER, *Benicia, California, January 1, 1945.*

**Three Species of Birds New to Boulder County, Colorado.**—The following additions to the list of birds of Boulder County were made in the period from September, 1941, to September, 1943, when the writer was in residence at the University of Colorado.

*Nyroca collaris*. Ring-necked Duck. Niedrach and Rockwell (*Birds of Denver and Mountain Parks*, 1939:41) list several fall records and one spring record for areas adjoining Boulder County (Barr Lake, March 27, 1938). The Ring-necked Duck was first encountered by Miss Verna Mace and myself on April 5, 1942, on a small lake just east of the mouth of Deer Creek Canyon, fifteen miles southwest of Denver, Jefferson County; three pairs were observed.

The species was first observed in Boulder County on March 19, 1943, when two males and a female were seen on a small reservoir at the mouth of Twomile Canyon, just north of Boulder. This group was noted on several occasions. On April 11, 1943, two males were seen on a small lake about three miles south of Rabbit Mountain, just west of Longmont. On May 2, 1943, Miss Mace and I saw a single pair on Blue Mountain Reservoir, west of Berthoud, in Larimer County. On December 4, 1943, a female of this species was collected by Philip T. Frank five miles east of Boulder and is now mounted in the collection of the University of Colorado (no. 4252).

*Buteo platypterus platypterus*. Broad-winged Hawk. Niedrach and Rockwell (*op. cit.*:50) list several records of occurrence of this hawk in the spring at City Park, Denver, and they also have one specimen (Colo. Mus. Nat. Hist. no. 12386) taken May 12, 1933. On September 21, 1942, a single adult was observed flying over the campus of the University of Colorado in Boulder in company with two Marsh Hawks. The markings were familiar through long experience with this species in northern Ohio.

*Psaltriparus minimus plumbeus*. Lead-colored Bush-tit. According to Niedrach and Rockwell (*op. cit.*:119), this species "is only a wanderer in our territory." They mention two specimens taken

by Niedrach in City Park, Denver, in January, 1924, and on January 20, 1927. Bush-tits were encountered just southwest of Boulder, on the pediment of Bear Mountain, on November 11, 1941, when a flock of about ten was observed feeding in rock pines along with chickadees and nuthatches. Again on January 24, 1943, a small group of about six was seen about a half mile north of the mouth of Fourmile Canyon, north of Boulder. On April 11, 1943, a small group of Bush-tits was observed in Deadman Gulch, just off South St. Vrain Canyon, about three miles southwest of Lyons. It is possible that these birds are resident in suitable localities there. They are early nesters and the group encountered in April may have bred, or were breeding. These occurrences, both in spring and fall, of this bird should encourage further search to establish their seasonal status more accurately.—MALCOLM T. JOLLIE, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, December 20, 1944.*

**Another Record of the Purple Gallinule in Arizona.**—An uninjured adult female Purple Gallinule (*Ionornis martinica*) was taken on July 21, 1944, about 4 miles northeast of Tucson, Arizona. It was reported to me by a University watchman, Mr. Frye, on whose premises the family cat discovered it in hiding under a small palm, just after two or three days of high winds. A light mauling by the cat had resulted only in the loss of a few tail feathers.

There are now three authentic records of this species in Arizona backed by specimens in the University of Arizona collection. The first, an adult female, was taken at Tucson, September 30, 1887; the second, an adult male, was taken at Montana Lake, Oro Blanco, in western Santa Cruz County, on August 2, 1909. Both of these are in the Brown collection. To these the third, present specimen, is now added.

Doubt is cast by Allan Phillips (MS) on the claim, by Willard, of one taken at Tombstone in June, 1904 (Condor, 7, 1905:112). I think Phillips' point is well taken.—CHAS. T. VORHIES, *University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, November 22, 1944.*

**Black-bellied Tree Ducks in Arizona.**—At 7 a.m., on June 14, 1942, Mr. William X. Foerster of Tucson called me by phone to report the presence of two Black-bellied Tree Ducks (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) on a small pond at Midvale Farms. This is on the west side of the Santa Cruz River, north of the San Xavier Mission, about 6 miles southwest of Tucson. Taking a shotgun I accompanied Mr. Foerster to the pond, where Mrs. Foerster had remained to watch the birds. On my arrival the ducks were, true to name, not on the water, but perched in a small mesquite tree which stood 4 or 5 feet above the surface of the pond. Supposing they were a pair, and since we had no specimens, both were collected.

Both were females, identical in length (470 mm.), and of nearly equal weight. One weighed 785 grams, the other 820 grams, or approximately one and three-fourths pounds each. They were not in breeding condition.

The rapidity with which the bright coral red faded from the beaks and legs was astonishing. This color had virtually disappeared by the time the birds were retrieved, indicating a probability that the red color of those parts is dependent on the capillary blood. No artist's representation that I have seen does justice to the brilliant red of those parts in the living bird.

While skinning the specimens I noticed that the flesh was tender and light in color like that of a young rabbit and quite unlike the dark meat of the common wild duck. The bodies were saved, prepared for the table, and proved to be most delicious meat, lacking the "wild" flavor common to other wild ducks. This characteristic was noted by Lawrence in 1874 (in Bent, U. S. Nat. Mus., Bull. 130, 1925:277) for the Fulvous Tree Duck.

This is the first record of this species in Arizona since 1906, when Herbert Brown reported as follows: "May 5, 1899, 6 out of a bunch of 8 Autumnal Tree Ducks (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) were killed on the Santa Cruz, south of Tucson. They were the first and only ones I ever saw in Arizona. They were beautiful things" (Auk, 23, 1906:218). This statement certainly implies that Brown saw some of those birds while fresh. His own notes, however, now in our possession, show that he was in Yuma at the time the tree ducks were killed near Tucson. His notebook entry concerning them is under date of *October, 1901*, and reads as follows: "On May 5th, 1899, some 6 or 8 Autumnal Tree Ducks (*D. autumnalis*) were killed on the Santa Cruz river about 2 miles south of Tucson. I saw one in the possession of W. C. Brown and he informed me that a man by the name of Kelley had killed the others."—CHARLES T. VORHIES, *University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona, February 20, 1945.*