based on a pair collected by R. Ellis from the west side of Ruby Lake, White Pine County. Two sightings were made in Elko County in the winter of 1964.

A flock of about 200 birds was observed by the author on 26 January 1964, feeding on the south-facing slope of Crittenden Reservoir dam, 17 miles north of Montello. A flock of approximately 10 birds was seen by L. W. Hoskins and the author feeding near the Nevada Fish and Game Department Owyhee District Headquarters in Elko.

Cyanocitta stelleri. Steller Jay. Linsdale (Pacific Coast Avifauna, 23, 1936:84) records *Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis* as occurring on the higher mountain ranges along the western border of the state, from Reno south at least to the White Mountains.

Hoskins records two separate sightings of this species in his field notes. A flock of eight birds was observed on McDermitt Creek in the Cherry Creek Mountains on 18 February 1959. On 30 October 1960 a single bird was seen above the W. Payne Ranch, east of Pequop Summit, Pequop Mountains. These are the first records of this species in Elko County and the northernmost occurrence for eastern Nevada.—GEORGE K. TSUKAMOTO, *Nevada Fish and Game Department, Wells, Nevada, 2 June 1965.*

Probable Nesting of the Starling on San Clemente Island, California.—It has been approximately 20 years since the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) was first recorded in California. In that short span it has become abundant in many areas and continues to extend its range. For example, I observed it nesting in downtown Ensenada, Baja California on 16 May 1963. That it should spread to the off-shore islands could be predicted, but the record of it on San Clemente Island, California on 5 June 1965 is a testimony to its extraordinary dispersal powers. On this occasion only one bird was observed, but from its nervous, food-getting behavior, the assumption of breeding was made and is reported here.—HENRY E. CHILDS, JR., *Cerritos College, Norwalk, California, 10 June 1965.*

A Prey Capture by the Zone-tailed Hawk.—In an earlier paper (Condor, 65, 1963:313) I suggested that the Zone-tailed Hawk, *Buteo albonotatus,* is an aggressive mimic of the Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura,* approaching prey closely when the latter has become accustomed to the vulture. The question still remains how the hawk can stay or nest in an area for several months and not alarm potential prey by repeated captures. A kill observed on the upper Quebrada Saisa (7° 44′ N, 76° 29′ W), Antioquia, Colombia, may illustrate one way the hawk solves this problem.

On 26 March 1965 at 670-meter elevation at the edge of the forest I observed a soaring Zone-tailed Hawk. Its wings were held flat for a moment, so that the bird looked like a hawk; but then it moved the wings up to a dihedral so that it resembled one of the Turkey Vultures that during the day and on the preceding evening had been soaring in the same vicinity.

Suddenly the hawk turned sharply and soared toward me. It half-folded the wings and went into a shallow dive as it approached an isolated tree below the edge of the forest. The hawk struck the terminal leaves and soared out past me. After the strike the legs were tucked up, and no prey was visible until the hawk was at least 150 meters away. Then it extended the legs and began to pluck a small bird as it soared onward.

None of the birds singing and moving about in the nearby pasture and at the edge of the forest above me gave the alarm as the hawk made its kill and soared off. If I had not been watching through binoculars during this time, I could have mistaken the maneuver for a bird circling close to the canopy and then away except for the brief shallow dive just before the kill.

If a Zone-tailed Hawk captures prey on cliffs or at the edge of the forest, it may often do so in this fashion without alarming potential prey to the fact that not all "vultures" are harmless. Of course, the species probably avoids detection by potential prey by other methods. It probably forages over a wide area, and it may be like some other hawks in not foraging near its nest (Dean Amadon, personal communication).

Support of a Frank M. Chapman fellowship from the American Museum of Natural History is gratefully acknowledged.—EDWIN O. WILLIS, *American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York, 21 May 1965.*

Status of the Black Rail and the Gray-breasted Crake in British Honduras.—In 1963 I obtained two Black Rails (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) 17 miles northwest of Monkey River, British Honduras. A male was collected on 29 June; it weighed 35.0 gm and its testes measured 2 × 4 and 2 × 3 mm. The following day a female was taken; it weighed 39.9 gm and had large ova (9 × 10 and 7 × 7 mm). The female was unquestionably in breeding condition. There are no published records of nesting Black Rails in México (excluding Baja California) or Central America.

Black Rails inhabited at least a portion of several square miles of open savanna at an elevation of 100 feet between Deep River and Bladen Branch of the Monkey River. Although the high and low sections of the savanna where rails were found differ in elevation by six feet, the area is poorly drained. The average annual rainfall is over 140 inches. During much of the year the savanna is very wet, but the months of February through May are usually rather dry. In 1963 rains did not begin until late June, and at the time the Black Rails were collected there was no standing water in the savanna. The grasses *Sporobolus cubensis, Paspalum pulchellum,* and *Mesosetum filifolium* and the sedges *Rhynchospora globosa, R. barbata,* and *R. cyperoides* predominated in the savanna. Most grasses and sedges were from 10 to 20 inches tall. A few chaparro (*Curatella americana*) and nanze (*Byrsonima crassifolia*) were widely scattered in the area. Oaks (*Quercus oleoides*) occasionally formed clusters not exceeding a height of 30 inches. Pines (*Pinus caribea*) surrounded the open savanna.

The Black Rails were difficult to flush in the knee-high savanna vegetation and were not seen except when they flew. They frequently uttered a rapid *peep-peep* followed immediately by a low, almost guttural *churrr.* My imitation of this call would often be followed by an answer from a hidden bird a few feet from me. Another call consisted of a low clucking note. I do not know if one or both sexes made the calls. In a mapped study area of 21.6 acres divided into 12 quadrats of 1.8 acres, I recorded at least 10 Black Rails in 7 of the quadrats in the course of 12 hours of observations. My assistant, Angelo Palmisano, spent many hours traversing the savanna in attempts to flush the rails, and it was by this technique that he collected the two birds. The Ruddy Crake (*Laterallus ruber*) was common in the brushy thickets at the edge of the savanna, but it never entered the open regions frequented by the Black Rails. Short-billed Marsh Wrens (*Cistothorus platensis*) were the most common birds in the savanna. Grasshopper Sparrows (*Ammodramus savannarum*) and Botteri Sparrows (*Aimophila botteri*) were also residents, but they preferred higher parts of the savanna.

The American Ornithologists' Union Check-list (5th ed., 1957:158) lists two North American races of the Black Rail: *L. j. jamaicensis* in the eastern part of the United States and *L. j. coturniculus* on the Pacific coast south to northern Baja California. In an effort to identify the subspecies of the British Honduran specimens, I examined 13 males and eight females of *L. j. jamaicensis* and 18 males and 17 females of *L. j. coturniculus.* Friedmann (Birds of North and Middle America, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. 50 pt. 9, 1941:153–160) considered the sexes similar in appearance. In the series that I examined, most females were lighter on the throat and upper breast than were the males. On the basis of this character, 2 of 32 specimens labeled as males could be mistaken as females and 4 of 26 of the females resembled males. Males and females are not significantly different in size (table 1 and fig. 1).

Friedmann (*op. cit.*) compared *L. j. jamaicensis* with *L. j. coturniculus* and stated that the latter is smaller, has a more slender bill, is more deeply colored below, and has the brown of the upper parts more rufescent and more extensive. I found the color characteristics to be poorly defined when specimens of similar museum age were compared. However, slight color differences between the races do exist and can be recognized when series are compared. I could match the British Honduran birds with some specimens of each subspecies on the basis of color characters. Measurements (table 1) do indicate that *L. j. coturniculus* has a smaller wing and, to a lesser ex-