

## A NEW SPECIES OF RAIL FROM PARAGUAY.

BY H. B. CONOVER.

A SHORT while ago, I received in a shipment of birds from Paraguay, a single specimen of a small Porzantine rail which I was unable to identify. Its coloration does not fit modern descriptions of any Rails known to me, and a search through an edition of Azara reveals no Rail like it described by that author.

In structure it appears to belong in the genus *Laterallus*. The secondaries are only slightly shorter than the primaries. The tarsus, however, is relatively shorter than that of other species in this genus, and the bill is relatively higher at the base.

I have been able personally to compare it with the following species and subspecies of the genus: *L. melanophaeus melanophaeus*, *L. m. albigularis*, *L. m. cinereiceps*, *L. ruber*, *L. exilis*, *L. leucopyrrhus*, *L. viridis*, *L. levraudi*, *L. jamaicensis jamaicensis*, *L. j. coturniculus*, *L. j. salinazi*.

I am indebted to Mr. James L. Peters of the Museum of Comparative Zoology for comparing it with the specimens of Porzantine Rails in that institution, where all known species were available except *Laterallus levraudi*.

### *Laterallus xenopterus* spec. nov.

*Type* from Horqueta, Paraguay, 40 kilometers east of Paraguay River, Long. 57° 10' W., Lat. 23° 24' S. No. 11,221, adult female in the Conover Collection, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. Collected November 17, 1933, by Alberto Schulze. Original number 630.

*Characters*.—Differs from all described species of the genus *Laterallus* by having the upper wing coverts and scapulars brownish black, broadly barred with white, and by having the foreneck, chest and breast buffy ochraceous. In coloration of the top and sides of the head and neck and of the mantle it resembles *Laterallus leucopyrrhus*. In the barring of the upper wing coverts it most nearly resembles *Porzana spiloptera*, which however, is a gray-breasted species of another genus.

*Description*.—Top of head, sides of face to below ear coverts, top and sides of neck, and mantle dark rufous (nearest to chestnut of Ridgway). Lores brownish gray. Back and rump brown (tail lacking). Upper wing coverts and scapulars brownish black, broadly barred with white. Bend of wing white. Primaries and secondaries brown. Throat cream. Front

and sides of neck, chest and upper breast buffy ochraceous (clay color of Ridgway). Lower breast, belly and vent white. Sides of body and flanks white, broadly barred with brownish black. Under wing coverts white, slightly mottled with dusky. Axillaries brown at base, white at the tip. Bill (in dried skin) dusky, tip of lower mandible light horn. Feet (in dried skin) dark brown. Wing (flat) 89, culmen 16, tarsus 27.4, middle toe (with claw) 30.3 mm.

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