

The Spotted Rail, *Pardirallus maculatus*, in southern México¹ (Plate 16, bottom figure).—In the summer of 1946 I received a letter from Señor Miguel Alvarez del Toro, a young ornithologist associated with the Museo de Historia Natural, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Chiapas, México, informing me that he had alive in a cage a Spotted Rail captured in a marsh about seven kilometers west of the city a year before. Further correspondence brought out the fact that the bird was indeed *Pardirallus maculatus*, a species new to the Mexican fauna, but that the bird was in such worn plumage that, if killed and skinned, it would be almost useless for comparison with the unique type of the geographically nearest race, *insolitus*, of Ycacos Lagoon, British Honduras. I therefore suggested that the bird be kept alive until it had a chance to grow new feathers (its abraded ones being also apparently "grown in captivity" and being no less subject to suspicion on these grounds than would be the new ones), and that, in the mean time, to substantiate the record, photographs be made of it, and notes made of the colors of the soft parts, voice, habits, etc. Señor del Toro has now sent me two photographs, one of which is herewith reproduced, and which proves that the bird is the little-known Spotted Rail, *Pardirallus maculatus*. Whether it is of the same race as the British Honduras bird or represents still another, as yet undescribed, form, cannot be ascertained at this time. Together with the photographs came the following notes on the soft parts: "bill olive greenish with two laterobasal reddish plates; iris dark red; tarsi and toes red or dark pinkish red." The credit for this interesting addition to the avifauna of México and for the descriptive data rightfully belongs not to me but to Señor del Toro, who has asked me to write this note and have it put on permanent record.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

Albino White-throated Sparrow (Plate 16, middle figure).—The albino White-throated Sparrow shown in the photograph was brought in by Karl E. Bartel who got it in his banding trap at Oak Hill Cemetery, Blue Island, Ill., on October 19, 1946. Mr. Bartel has done splendid work in bird-banding and usually averages 1000 birds a year. The photograph is by Watland brothers.

This bird is nearly all white, with a faint tinge of cinnamon on the wings and tail and enough contrast on the crown to show the superciliary stripe which is strongly yellow before the eyes. There is also a tinge of lemon yellow on the edge of the wing. The eyes appear to be very dark. In our collection at the Brookfield Zoo we also have an albino English Sparrow which also has the cinnamon tinge but in winter and spring is practically pure white. A third perfect albino specimen with pink eyes is a beautiful Robin, snow white all over. It was brought in from Iowa. We did have a handsome albino Robin for nine years—all white with a pink flush on the breast.—KARL PLATH, *Chicago Zoological Park, Brookfield, Illinois.*

Another partial albino Robin.—Warburton reported recently (Auk, 63: 593, 1946) three records of partially albino Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) observed in the spring of 1946. On September 18, 1946, I observed one similar to those described in his note. At 7:30 A. M. a mixed flock of Robins and Starlings appeared in my yard in Kent, Ohio. A male Robin was conspicuous in the flock because of the following irregularities of plumage: the left two or three outer tail feathers were completely white; the tips of the first several primaries of the left wing were pure white, giving the appearance of an asymmetrical rump-patch while the bird was on the ground; the post-nuchal region of the back was saddled with a speckled grayish-white band; the breast was suffused with milky white patches. The bird was observed at close range

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for about five minutes. It was normal in all other aspects of topography and in behavior. It is interesting to note that this bird, like two of those described by Warburton, was asymmetrical in pattern with the left side having the greater amount of white markings.—RALPH W. DEXTER, *Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.*

Hidden note on the Passenger Pigeon.—Had the work here cited come to my attention when I was preparing 'Birds of the vicinity of the University of Indiana' [Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci., 65-202, 1904 (1905)], it would have been treasure-trove. Even now, seeing that it is not mentioned in general accounts of the Passenger Pigeon nor in Butler's 'Birds of Indiana' [22nd Ann. Rep. Ind. Dept. of Geol., 1897 (1898)], it should be noted in an indexed ornithological journal for the benefit of future researchers. The book concerned is 'The New Purchase' by Baynard R. Hall (pseudonym, Charles Clarence), first published in New York, 1843, but most readily available in the Indiana Centennial Edition, Princeton University Press, 1916. The chapter devoted to a much frustrated pigeon hunt, running from pp. 466 to 474 in this book, was on pp. 253-264 of Vol. 2 of the first edition.

In the vicinity of Bloomington the autumn, apparently of the year 1828, "was remarkable for wild pigeons. The mast had failed elsewhere; while with us, the oak, the beech, and all other nut trees had never borne more abundant crops. . . As to pigeons, the first large flocks, attracted no unusual notice: and, yet, they were mere scouting parties from the grand army! For within a week. . . Had the leaves of our trees all been changed into birds, the number could have been no greater!" The author writes of the flight of the pigeons as "an endless hurricane on wings . . . with such an uproar as seemed to be prostrating the forests." He refers to a "Grand Roosting Encampment", noting that never, in the memory of our oldest inhabitants, had the pigeons roosted so near (some three miles from) the College town. The editor, J. A. Woodburn, born in 1856, records seeing in childhood similar flocks of wild pigeons and states that there was a roosting place ten miles south of Bloomington. Quoting Hall again, he refers to the birds flushed from the roost in the following language: "Hark! a storm rushes this way! How sudden the moon is hid! Is that a cloud? Yes, reader, it was a storm—but of pigeons rushing on countless wings! It was a cloud—but of careening and feathered squadrons! The moon was hid—and by a world of startled birds."

Those of us who never saw a Passenger Pigeon, and that includes 95 out of 100 living ornithologists, can only try to imagine the numbers of those birds and the grandeur of their flights. No other American bird, and perhaps no bird in all the world, is known to have assembled in such hordes, flown with such momentum, rivaling the very storm for turbulence and tumult, and obscuring the light of the sun or moon.—W. L. McATEE, *Chicago, Illinois.*

American Egrets nesting on West Sister Island in Lake Erie.—On June 16, 1946, a party of 15 members and guests of the Toledo Naturalists' Association discovered a small colony of six nests of the American Egret, *Casmerodius albus egretta* (Gmelin) on West Sister Island in Lake Erie. Laurel Van Camp of Genoa, Ohio, and I were acting as leaders of the group. Of the six nests one held four nestlings, one held three, two held two each, one contained one nestling, and the contents of one nest (either eggs or very small young) could not be determined. All the nestlings were completely feathered and a few climbed out on branches when disturbed. Ten of them were banded.

West Sister Island, the most westerly of the Lake Erie island group, belongs to Lucas County, Ohio. It lies about eight and three-quarter miles northeast of Jeru-