

Semipalmated Sandpiper and Western Sandpiper in Tamaulipas.—There being very few definite records of the Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Ereunetes pusillus*) for Mexico (see Friedmann, Griscom, Moore, Pacific Coast Avif., 29: 99, 1950, and Thompson, Wilson Bull., 70: 288, 1958), it seems advisable to call attention to an adult female specimen (bill 19.5 mm.) collected 31 July 1953, by R. R. Graber at Laguna Blanca, 11 miles southeast of Norias, on the Tamaulipas coast. The specimen (RRG 2419), which is now housed with my collection, appears to be largely in winter feather, the only obvious remnants of the breeding plumage being a few worn, blackish-brown scapulars and a scattering of dark, much-worn chest feathers.

The Western Sandpiper (*E. maurii*), which apparently has never been reported from Tamaulipas (see Friedmann, *et al.*, *op. cit.*), probably migrates regularly along the east coast of Mexico along with the Semipalmated Sandpiper. There are seven Tamaulipas specimens in my collection, all obtained by Helmuth O. Wagner, at Pesca, on January 14 (female) and 16 (four males, two females), 1948. The specimens are in full winter feather. The January 14 female (HOW 2135), whose culmen measures 30.0 mm., is the longest-billed Western Sandpiper I have ever handled. In the two January 16 females (HOW 2157, 2161) the culmen measures, respectively, 27.0 and 21.5. I thought for a time that the short-billed bird was a Semipalmated Sandpiper, but it is too slender billed and a little too pale throughout the upper parts for that species. There is a possibility that the specimen was incorrectly sexed, though Dr. Wagner's label-drawing clearly shows an organ about 1 mm. wide and 2.5 mm. long. The January 16 males (HOW 2159, 2160, 2162, 2163) have a bill length of 24.0, 23.0, 22.0, and 23.5, respectively.—GEORGE MIKSCHE SURTON, *Department of Zoology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.*

Color of the Tarsi and Toes of the Black Rail.—Examination of two fresh specimens of the Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) has prompted us to call attention to the color of the tarsi and toes of this species, since our observations do not agree with published accounts. Audubon (Ornithological Biography, vol. IV; 361, 1838) and Friedmann (Birds of North and Middle America, U.S. Nat'l. Mus. Bull., 50: 154, 1941) state that the tarsi and toes are bright yellowish-green. Descriptions in other publications are similar. Prominent bird artists, including Fuertes, have depicted the color of these appendages as yellowish-green, yellow, or green; while Allan Brooks' illustration of this species (The Book of Birds, vol. I, National Geographic Society, p. 291, 1932) shows pink legs.

An adult female specimen was collected by J. A. Hagar, C. S. Robbins, and R. E. Stewart near Elliott Island, Maryland, on 8 June 1958. A second adult Black Rail, presumed to be a female by its dull color and call, was caught alive by the authors in the same area on 17 June 1958, and is still held in captivity. The tarsi and toes of these two birds show no trace of yellow or green. They appear grayish, matching "Flint" (plate 56—1C) or "Gunmetal" (plate 48—2C) in Maerz and Paul's "A Dictionary of Color" (1930), and "blackish-brown" in the color charts provided with Palmer and Reilly's "A Concise Color Standard" (Am. Ornith. Union Handbook Fund, 1956). A grayed-off blackish-brown would seem to be an appropriate description.

Other supporting evidence was obtained concerning this matter. An adult male specimen in the U.S. National Museum, collected near Chincoteague, Virginia, on