

**A Race of Virginia Rail from the Pacific Coast.**—The writer has for some time been aware of certain size differences between Virginia Rails of the eastern United States and those of the far west, but has delayed formally naming the race of the latter area until a sufficient number of specimens had been examined to make sure that the supposed differences were correlated with distribution and were not purely individual in character. I now propose that the Virginia Rails of the Pacific slope be called

*Rallus virginianus pacificus*, subsp. nov. Pacific Virginia Rail.

*Type.*—Male, first winter; no. 11337, collection of Donald R. Dickey; 5 miles west of Corona, Riverside County, California; December 21, 1913; collected by A. J. van Rossem.

*Subspecific characters.*—Similar to *Rallus virginianus virginianus* Linnaeus of the eastern United States, but averaging larger in all measurements.

*Range.*—Pacific drainage of North America from British Columbia to Lower California, and probably eastward to the Rocky Mountains.

*Remarks.*—While I have seen only a relatively small number of birds from the middle western states, these are fully as small as Atlantic seaboard specimens. I have not been able to examine any from the Rocky Mountain area. Those individuals breeding on the western border of the Great Basin, in Inyo County, California, and from Laguna Dam on the lower Colorado River in winter, belong with the western race; and it is not unlikely that the new form will be found to extend eastward as far as the Rocky Mountains.

*Specimens examined.*—*Rallus virginianus virginianus*: Massachusetts, 11; New York, 1; New Jersey, 1; South Carolina, 4; Georgia, 3; Florida, 1; Minnesota, 1; Illinois, 1; Ohio, 1; Iowa, 1. Total, 25.

*Rallus virginianus pacificus*: British Columbia, 5; Washington, 3; California, 63; Lower California, 2. Total, 73.

My thanks are due to the San Diego Museum of Natural History, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Museum of Comparative Zoology, California Academy of Sciences, and the Los Angeles Museum for the courteous loan of specimens in their collections.

#### MEASUREMENTS

	Wing	Tail	Exposed culmen	Tarsus	Middle toe minus claw
♂ ♂ <i>pacificus</i>	104.0-113.5 (107.3)	42.0-51.0 (46.2)	38.2-47.1 (42.0)	36.0-39.3 (37.8)	33.5-38.5 (35.7)
♂ ♂ <i>virginianus</i>	98.0-105.0 (102.8)	40.0-47.5 (43.7)	35.8-42.5 (39.2)	32.5-37.0 (35.0)	30.1-35.7 (33.7)
♀ ♀ <i>pacificus</i>	96.5-107.5 (101.6)	40.0-48.5 (43.4)	33.4-41.3 (37.1)	31.7-36.8 (33.8)	30.5-35.4 (33.0)
♀ ♀ <i>virginianus</i>	92.0-101.5 (96.0)	38.0-43.0 (40.0)	32.0-36.9 (34.9)	30.6-33.4 (32.2)	29.2-32.6 (31.1)

—DONALD R. DICKEY, *California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, June 16, 1928.*

**Notes on Some Birds of Western Montana.**—I was interested in reading some notes on new birds from western Montana by Winton Weydemeyer of Libby, (see CONDOR, XXIX, 1927, p. 159). This observer mentioned seeing a flock of about forty Pinyon Jays flying over the town of Eureka, January 11, 1921. On August 21, 1924, his brother observed a small flock near Libby. He says there seem to be no previous records of this bird in Montana west of the divide. Perhaps, in this connection, my record would be of interest.

Pinyon Jay (*Cyanocephalus cyanocephalus*). On November 14, 1926, I observed a solitary Pinyon Jay in our city tourist park, which is west of the Continental Divide. The day was cloudy, after a rainy night. The bird seemed restless but not wild, flying from branch to branch and tree to tree, in a small yellow pine grove, sometimes alighting on the ground, and giving its call-note in a rather subdued tone. On returning to the park a few hours later I saw it again, but not after that date.

Northern Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius meruloides*). In a Distributional List of the Birds of Montana by A. A. Saunders (Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 14, 1921)