

ing range of the Vermilion Flycatcher still another one hundred miles to the northern limit of the Mohave Desert.—WILLIAM R. FISH, *China Lake, California, October 3, 1949.*

Virginia Warbler Parasitized by Cowbird.—The restricted range and elusiveness of the Virginia Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae*), together with its well-hidden nest, probably account in a large measure for the fact that it has so long escaped inclusion in Herbert Friedmann's extensive lists (*The Cowbirds*, 1929; *Auk*, 60, 1943:350-356; *Auk*, 66, 1949:154-163) of birds known to be parasitized by the North American Cowbird, *Molothrus ater*. I am able to add it to the list through the cooperation of Robert J. Niedrach, who took me to the nest of a Virginia Warbler in Daniels Park, near Denver, on July 13, 1949. When Niedrach found the nest in a bunch of grass at the edge of a clump of mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus parvifolius*) about two weeks earlier, it had contained several eggs of the warbler and one cowbird's egg. At the time of our visit, however, it was occupied by only one weak little warbler almost smothered beneath a lusty young cowbird.

The cowbird involved was *Molothrus ater artemisiae* which, with the addition of the Virginia Warbler to Friedmann's lists, is now known to parasitize 110 species and subspecies.—FRANK C. CROSS, *Silver Spring, Maryland, September 26, 1949.*

A Vireo Specimen with Supernumerary Rectrices.—There are few records in the literature of passerine birds with supernumerary rectrices, although Arthur A. Allen informs me that they are not uncommon in the Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) and perhaps in other gallinaceous birds. It may be of interest, therefore, to record such an occurrence recently discovered in a specimen in the Louis Agassiz Fuertes Memorial Collection at Cornell University. The bird (C. U. 15791) is a male Carmiol Vireo (*Vireo carmioli*) of undetermined age, collected by Austin Paul Smith at 9000 feet elevation on Volcan Turrialba, Costa Rica, on November 24, 1922. The specimen seems perfectly normal in all respects, save that it possesses no less than fifteen rectrices. All are fully grown, with no trace of sheathing at the bases of the feathers. The three extra feathers are, morphologically, of the type of the normal central pair, with the rachis centrally located. As far as can be determined without damaging the specimen, the follicles have been duplicated laterally rather than dorsoventrally, thus making it difficult to ascertain precisely which three of the five "central" rectrices are the supernumeraries. The exact stage of development at which this duplication arose is, of course, purely conjectural.—KENNETH C. PARKES, *Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, October 17, 1949.*

Summer Range of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.—In connection with other field work in Mexico in the summer of 1949, an effort was made to determine the southern limits of the summer range of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*). On July 18, careful check was made of the occurrence of this bird along the highway between Matamoros and Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas. Several Scissor-tails were observed in the vicinity of Santa Teresa; one at Las Norias (104 miles by road SSW Matamoros); and two near Tres Palos (about 25 miles NNE Jimenez). Beyond this point no Scissor-tails were encountered. Since mid-July is within the breeding season as reported by Bent (*Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, no. 179, 1942:92), it is likely that the birds here reported were within their breeding range. This point needs confirmation, however.—W. B. DAVIS, *Department of Wildlife Management, College Station, Texas, October 3, 1949.*

Mallards "Mobbing" Cooper Hawks.—Late in the afternoon of September 30, 1949, while studying Coots (*Fulica americana*) on Lake Temescal, on the eastern edge of Oakland, Alameda County, California, I observed behavior of about 20 Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and six Coots which seemed to be comparable to the "mobbing" behavior so well known among passerine birds. Two Cooper Hawks (*Accipiter cooperii*) were the objects of this demonstration.

About 5:15 p.m. a Cooper Hawk sailed across the lake, causing some uneasiness among the widely scattered waterfowl. The hawk showed no interest in any of them but flew into a large oak and a moment later emerged closely pursuing another larger and paler Cooper Hawk. In close pursuit they flew into another group of oaks which partly overhang the west shore of the lake. Here the first bird was seen to engage in some sort of a tail-spreading display, apparently for the benefit of the other

hawk. After this had continued for about two minutes, I noticed that most of the Mallards on the lake were moving to the water directly under the hawks, and once there, the ducks proceeded to mill around silently. Soon several of the nearby Coots moved over to join the outer ranks of the Mallards. Once the displaying hawk paused long enough to make a sudden pass at the accumulated waterfowl, quickly scattering them. But the water birds were back in a group again almost before the hawk was back on its perch. The Coots were making some of their distinctive noises and exhibiting their characteristic warning display as they moved around the edge of the milling ducks.

Finally after some 15 minutes of this, the larger hawk flew directly across the lake. It left the tree in level flight and caused no major reaction among the waterfowl. When its companion left the tree, however, it swooped low over the assembled birds, causing the six Coots to dive simultaneously and the Mallards to churn the water as they scrambled for safety. The hawk showed no intention of securing a bird and flew directly on across the lake. With the departure of the raptors the ducks and Coots soon returned to the various parts of the lake to carry on their normal activities.

I wonder if this congregating of Mallards near the perch of a possible predator might not be comparable to the flocking behavior of Coots when under attack by Bald Eagles.—GORDON W. GULLION, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, October 30, 1949.*

A New Clapper Rail from the Territory of Quintana Roo, Mexico.—During a recent expedition in the Territory of Quintana Roo, Mexico, for the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University, I was fortunate to collect two Clapper Rails. One individual taken at Vigia Chico, an abandoned town on Ascension Bay, proves to be the second known specimen of *Rallus longirostris pallidus* Nelson, the type of which was collected at Rio Lagartos, Yucatan, in 1893. My second specimen, which was collected while on a short trip to Chinchorro Bank, a group of islands about twenty-five miles off the southern end of the Territory, appears to belong to a new race for which I propose the name

***Rallus longirostris grossi* new subspecies**

Type.—Adult female, no. 8113, Peabody Mus. Nat. Hist., collected at Cayo Centro, Chinchorro Bank, Territory of Quintana Roo, Mexico, February 4, 1949, by Raymond A. Paynter, Jr.

Diagnosis.—Bill shorter than that of any known race. Nearest to *pallidus* of the mainland of the Yucatan Peninsula, from which it differs in having the neck and breast more richly colored, near, but darker than, vinaceous-buff of Ridgway, the underside of the neck more dusky, the flanks decidedly darker but with similar barring. The crown and hindneck are much darker brown, the loreal and auricular regions darker gray, the neck and back more dusky with the centers of the feathers much darker, verging toward Ridgway's clove-brown, and with the edges darker gray. The primaries are deeper brown and the under-wing coverts are darker. From *belizensis* of British Honduras this race may be distinguished by a much shorter bill, shorter wings and paler centers to the dorsal feathers. The soft parts of this specimen are noted on the label as: "Culmen horn-color, tomtia bright orange; mandible orange; legs mixed grayish-horn and bright orange."

Measurements

	Exposed culmen	Wing (not flattened)*	Locality
<i>grossi</i> ♀	48.5 mm.	133.5 mm.	Cayo Centro, Chinchorro Bank, Quintana Roo.
<i>pallidus</i> ♂	50.5	139.0	Vigia Chico, Quintana Roo.
<i>pallidus</i> ♀	53.0	143.0	Rio Lagartos, Yucatan.
<i>belizensis</i> ♀	57.0	141.5	Ycacos Lagoon, British Honduras.

* The wing was not flattened in taking the measurements of my two specimens in order to make a comparison with Oberholser's published measurements of the types of *pallidus* and *belizensis* (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., 84, 1937:335, 336).

Range.—Probably confined to the islands of Chinchorro Bank, Territory of Quintana Roo, Mexico.

In spite of the lack of adequate comparative material and the known variation in the populations of the Clapper Rail, I feel justified in describing this new race because of its striking characters and its geographic isolation.

This rail was not uncommon on Cayo Centro, as Griscom also reported (Amer. Mus. Novit. No. 236, 1926), but the shy nature of the bird and the shortness of my visit did not permit the collection of additional specimens.