

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.

I take great pleasure in naming this race in honor of Dr. Alfred O. Gross, a distinguished student of North American birds and a stimulating teacher and friend. I am indebted to Messrs. James L. Peters of the Museum of Comparative Zoology and Emmet R. Blake of the Chicago Natural History Museum, who have kindly compared my specimens with the types of *belizensis* and *pallidus* in their respective collections.—RAYMOND A. PAYNTER, JR., *Osborn Zoological Laboratory, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, January 15, 1950.*

**A New North American Record for the Tufted Duck.**—On May 24, 1949, Mr. Harold P. Deutschman of Livermore, California, presented the California Academy of Sciences with a mounted specimen of a duck which he described as a "freak scaup with a crest on its head." He had shot the bird some time between December 23, 1948, and January 8, 1949, at a pond on the property of the Henry J. Kaiser Gravel Plant in the Livermore Valley, Alameda County, California.

On examination the specimen in question (now Calif. Acad. Sci. no. 61012) proved to be a male Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*), a fairly common Palearctic species which, heretofore, has been recorded only from Greenland and the Pribilof Islands in the New World. Although there is always the possibility that this individual might have escaped from a local aviary, the species is reported to be rare in captivity in North America. Mr. Jean Delacour of the American Museum of Natural History, who is very familiar with captive waterfowl in this country, informed the writer in October, 1949, that he was unaware of any captive Tufted Ducks in the western United States. It is probable, therefore, that this individual was an aberrant migrant from northeastern Asia where the species is known to breed.—ROBERT T. ORR, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, January 3, 1950.*

**Notes on the Ecological Distribution of Plain and Bridled Titmice in Arizona.**—The Bridled Titmouse (*Parus wollweberi*) ranges northward from the Mexican highlands into southeastern Arizona where it is a permanent resident in the oaks, whereas the Plain Titmouse (*Parus inornatus*) is a "permanent obligate resident of the pigmy conifers" in northern Arizona (Woodbury and Russell, Bull. Univ. Utah, 35, 1945:93). Ranges of the two species overlap where their respective habitats meet or intergrade south of the Mogollon Plateau in the east-central part of the state. Specimens in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology show that during the nesting season this zone of overlap extends at least from Stanley, Graham County, north to the Sierra Ancha. The two species were observed together in two localities in the spring of 1949 and, since their nesting requirements are similar, an effort was made to see if they competed and if not, by what means competition was avoided or reduced.

At Sawmill, 27 miles northeast of Globe, Gila County, observations were made from April 22 through 25, 1949. Here, at an elevation of 5600 feet, occasional pairs of the Bridled Titmouse were found in a woodland of junipers and gray oak (*Quercus grisea*) 10 to 12 feet in height, with taller yellow pines scattered throughout. On an opposite sunny slope, the oaks and junipers appeared to be more widely spaced with yellow pine absent. Here W. C. Russell took one Plain Titmouse and saw another within 75 yards of a pair of Bridled Titmice. I did not note the Plain Titmouse on that slope in the course of three hours of hunting there the following morning. Twice in this vicinity I noted other isolated pairs of Bridled Titmice in small areas of presumably more favorable habitat.

At a camp (April 27-29) 8 miles south of Whiteriver, Navajo County, at an elevation of 6100 feet, the Plain Titmouse was met frequently in a woodland of juniper, piñon, and gray oak. Occasionally pairs of the Bridled Titmouse were encountered locally in this woodland where the scrubby oaks were more numerous and denser. Presence of the Spotted Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*) was an indication of the vegetation density of those areas to which the Bridled Titmouse appeared restricted, whereas the towhee did not occur in the more open parts of the association where the Plain Titmouse was found exclusively. This condition obtained at both localities visited, but at the latter, the more abundant Plain Titmouse penetrated the denser oak growth to some extent. While both species appeared to have territories established there, I found none overlapping; on one shallow, east-facing slope, a linear sequence of Bridled, Plain, and Bridled territories occurred in what appeared to be uniform habitat of the Bridled Titmouse. In one instance song of a Bridled Titmouse was answered by that of the Plain.

Although no female Bridled Titmice were taken, observations were made which suggest that the nesting cycle of the Plain Titmouse may have been in advance of that of its relative. Plain Titmouse