although overlooked, inhabitant of chaparral-covered hillsides of the Rio Grande Valley to at least north-central New Mexico.—DAVID M. NILES, *Museum of Southwestern Biology, The University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico. (Present address: Museum of Natural History, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.) 1 March 1964.*

A New Subspecies of the Virginia Rail from México.—The Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) has been known as a breeding bird in México since 1904, when E. A. Goldman collected the first specimens and a set of eggs and photographed the nest of the species in the marshes at the headwaters of the Rio Lerma, State of México (Goldman, Condor, 10:181, 1908 and Smithsonian Misc. Publ. 115, 1951). Friedmann (in Ridgway and Friedmann, Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus., 50(9):93, 1941) cited five supposed breeding localities for the species in México ("Valley of Mexico; Lerma; possibly Santa Cruz, Sonora; Tizimin, Yucatan"). The Check-list of the Birds of México, Part One (Friedmann, Griscom and Moore, Pac. Coast Avifauna, 29:84, 1951) gives the range as "Resident in Baja California and possibly Sonora, a local colony in the Distrito Federal; the only record for Yucatan is June 23." Actually the only valid published nesting record for México other than Baja California is that of Goldman. I know of no published record for the Valley of México, and it is somewhat of a puzzle as to how this came into the literature. The Yucatán record was properly discredited by Paynter (Peabody Mus. Nat. Hist. Bull., 9:88, 1955).

The Virginia Rail is actually a rather widespread and apparently sedentary nesting species in México. Recent collections made during investigations of the birds of the fresh-water marshes of México have provided material for comparisons of the population with the northern nominate population from which it is separated by about 1000 miles. The Mexican population is an apparently undescribed subspecies and may be known as:

Rallus limicola friedmanni new subspecies

Type. Adult (?) male no. 19,545 University of Minnesota Museum of Natural History; San Pedro Techuchulco, State of México, collected 4 June 1961 by Robert W. Dickerman. Original field number 9768. From mated pair, testes 11 × 3 mm, weight 82.3 g, little fat, light molt.

Diagnosis. Coloration similar to that of *Rallus limicola limicola* but paler, less richly colored; dorsally, with paler and more olivaceous edges to the interscapulars and tertials; ventrally, more pinkish, less cinnamon. The rufous of the bend of the wing averages paler, though there is much variation in this character. There are no differences in size.

Remarks. Within the series of the nominate form in the collection of the University of Minnesota Museum of Natural History there is evidence of foxing; specimens taken 50 years ago or more show a paling of the edges of the dorsal feathers when compared with specimens taken recently. Within the series of 12 specimens in that collection taken since 1926, none will fit comfortably within the series of *friedmanni.* In the series of adult *friedmanni*, in fresh to moderately worn plumage only one breeding bird (MMNH 11,425) is more richly colored dorsally and is completely inseparable from the recent series of *limicola.* In the series of 10 adults taken at San Pedro Techuchulco within the nesting season, there is some individual variation. Apart from the specimen mentioned above, two others (MMNH 11,431 and 11,400) are slightly darker dorsally although still easily separable from *limicola* on the characters given above. These three are the darkest specimens of the entire series of *friedmanni.* A worn nesting female taken after the above comparisons were made has more extensive dark central areas in the dorsal feathers and is in general darker than five other *friedmanni* on hand at this later date, and may also be indistinguishable from *limicola.* The remaining five adults are as pale dorsally as the type and form with the rest of the Mexican specimens a highly uniform series. Thus, 19 or 20 adults out of the total series of 21 recently taken birds in varyingly worn breeding plumage are separable from the nominate form. Due to the changes in older specimens by foxing, no attempt was made to identify subspecifically a series of 14 specimens taken by Wilmot W. Brown, Jr. at San Mateo (= San Mateo Atenco ?) in the Lerma Valley, October and November 1905. One specimen in this series still retains some black juvenal feathers, and the entire series may well represent the local popula-

tion. The nesting season in the Lerma Valley may be quite extended as indicated by small downy young seen 5 June and by a young still largely in the downy plumage caught by hand by Allan R. Phillips on 10 September. There appear to be no differences between the down plumage of *friedmanni* and that of the nominate form. Six juvenile *friedmanni* in first prebasic molt are easily separable from eight out of nine *limicola,* at similar age, from several localities. The palest of the young *limicola,* however, is inseparable from the darkest of the juvenile *friedmanni,* and a seventh juvenile *friedmanni* may be as dark as *limicola.*

A series of seven birds from Laguna San Felipe, Puebla (*ca.* 12 kilometers northeast of Izucar de Matamoros), appears to include both subspecies. Three out of four specimens taken 19 April are closest to *limicola,* with the fourth resembling the darker *friedmanni.* Two out of three early-May birds from this locality are nearly intermediate while one has the typical pale coloration of *friedmanni.* I have no evidence as yet that the species breeds at this locality, although the late dates strongly suggest this. A female with enlarged oviduct, taken by Abraham Ramirez V. at Laguna San Francisco Tepancuapan, Chiapas, 4 July, is typical *friedmanni.* Chapman collected two males and two females at Jalapa, Veracruz, 8 and 16 April 1897 (Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 10:15–43). The males had slightly enlarged gonads, and the four birds probably represent a local breeding population. I found a partially destroyed rail nest at Zaragosa, Puebla, containing four eggs. Two of these were unbroken and measured 34 × 23 and 32 × 22.5 mm. They are inseparable by either color or size from eggs of the Virginia Rails in the northern part of their range.

Range. Breeds in the Trans-Mexican Volcanic province from Laguna del Carmen, Puebla, west at least to the head waters of the Río Lerma. Probably also at Jalapa, Veracruz; Zaragosa, Puebla; and Laguna San Francisco Tepancuapan, Chiapas; possibly at Laguna San Felipe, Puebla, and probably much more widespread than present evidence indicates.

Specimens examined.—friedmanni. Total 32. Puebla: Laguna del Carmen 1M, 1F, 1 juv.; Tlaxcala: Laguna Aquitlapilco 2M, 2F; 5 mi. W Cd. Tlaxcala 1F; State of México: Laguna Zumpango 1M; San Pedro Techuchulco, 7M, 4F, 6 juv., 5 nat; Hidalgo: Laguna Zupitlan, 1M; Veracruz: Jalapa 2M, 2F, Chiapas: Laguna San Francisco Tepancuapan 1F.

Identity uncertain: Puebla: Laguna San Felipe 3M, 4F; State of México: San Pedro Techuchulco IF.—ROBERT W. DICKERMAN, *Department of Microbiology, Cornell University Medical College, New York, New York, 24 May 1965.*

CORRIGENDUM

In the article on the molt of Cassin Auklets (Condor, 67:220–228, 1965) row 1, column 3, of table 2 should read 18 rather than 10 birds alone with two primaries in molt.