

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW CLAPPER RAIL FROM
FLORIDA.

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

A clapper rail obtained by Dr. Paul Bartsch on his recent trip to the Florida Keys proves to belong to an undescribed race which may be called

Rallus longirostris helius, subsp. nov.

Mangrove Clapper Rail.

Chars. subsp..—Similar to *Rallus longirostris scotti* from western Florida but much lighter both above and below, the edgings on the upper parts much less olivaceous (more clearly grayish).

Description..—Type, adult male, No. 255254, U. S. National Museum; sixth key in the Newfound Harbor group, southwest of Big Pine Key, Florida, May 12, 1919; Dr. Paul Bartsch. Pileum olive brown, the centers of the feathers darker; hind neck between Saccardo's umber and sepia, mixed with grayish feather edgings, which posteriorly impart a streaked appearance; back and scapulars with the feathers centrally sepia, marginally clear gray; rump and upper tail-coverts sepia with broad, dull, olive gray feather margins; tail between olive brown and fuscous, the shafts of the rectrices clove brown; wings dark olive brown, the outer and inner edges of the quills lighter, the superior coverts still lighter and inclining to cinnamon, the inner coverts washed with grayish; outer web of outermost feather of alula mottled and partly edged with pale cinnamon; sides of head rather dark neutral gray, the lores darker and more brownish, the supraloral stripe and line on the lower eyelid dull white; sides of neck light neutral gray washed with buffy, posteriorly darker, less purely gray and indistinctly streaked with dull brown; chin and throat white; malar stripe pale ochraceous buff; center of jugulum and whole of breast, between pinkish buff and pinkish cinnamon, the middle of breast paler; abdomen dull, buffy white; sides of body and flanks rather dark brownish gray, broadly barred with white; lower tail-coverts white, widely barred

with dark brownish gray; lining of wing rather dark hair brown, outwardly washed with rusty, and narrowly barred with white; thighs anteriorly dull white, posteriorly mouse gray. Wing, 147 mm.; tail, 64; exposed culmen, 62; tarsus, 50; middle toe without claw, 45.

This interesting new rail is in color between *Rallus longirostris crepitans* and *Rallus longirostris waynei*, although it is smaller than either. It is apparently confined to the Florida Keys, although it possibly may extend to the adjacent mainland. Its northeastern distribution yet remains to be determined.



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