

September we seldom failed to secure one during an evening's stroll with a gun. Though rather shy, they seldom ran far when surprised. In the woods they are not often seen, though we found them in the opening in the forest of the Volcan de Fuego known as Pajal Grande. Here they would lie out like Rabbits in any clump of bushes. The flesh of this Hare is excellent, and both in colour and taste something between that of a Hare and a Rabbit. They do not, so far as we know, burrow in the ground. In San Gerónimo and Coban this animal is equally abundant, according to Mr. Sarg, plantations being their chief place of resort." In the United States, Audubon and Bachman state that the young, six or seven in number, are deposited in a rather large nest, often composed of a species of *Juncus* cut into lengths, and generally domed over, with an entrance at one side*.

Mr. Allen finds that the variation in colouring of this species is confined to the intensity of the tints. Of the series which he examined, "by far the most highly-coloured specimen is one from Mirador (near Vera Cruz), Mexico, in which the black [of the upper parts] is considerably more prevalent than in average specimens from the Atlantic States. The greyish area below is also more restricted and more suffused with brownish"⁴. The same remarks apply to an example contained in Mr. Salvin's Guatemalan collections in the British Museum.

6. *Lepus aquaticus*.

Lepus aquaticus, Bachman, J. Ac. Philad. vii. p. 119, pl. xxii. fig. 2 (1837, descr. orig.¹); Baird, Mamm. N. Am. p. 612²; Allen, Mon. N.-Am. Rodent. p. 364³.

Hab. NORTH AMERICA, from Alabama westward and southward³.—MEXICO, Orizaba (*Sumichrast, Botteri, U.S. Nat. Mus.*³), Sierra Madre (*Xantus, ib.*³); Yucatan, Merida (*Schott, ib.*³).

Like the last species, the Water-Hare or Swamp-Hare was first described by Bachman; and he and Audubon have given the fullest account of its habits. According to them it is a still more aquatic animal than *L. palustris*, preferring "low and marshy places, or the neighbourhood of streams and ponds of water, to which it is fond of resorting. It swims with great facility from one little islet to another, and is generally found seeking its food in wet places or near the water, as it subsists on the roots of various kinds of aquatic plants, especially on a species of *Iris* growing in the water." It is much fleet of foot than the Marsh-Hare, but when pursued it almost invariably directs its course to the nearest pool or river. The young are said to be "frequently found in nests formed of leaves and grasses, placed in hillocks in the swamps, or in the hollow of some fallen tree"[†]. Dr. Lincecum observes that in sugar-growing countries this Hare lives principally on the leaves of the canes, but that in Texas it feeds on various grasses and wild herbage[‡].

The Water-Hare is abundant in most swampy parts of the southern United States

* Quadr. N. Am. i. p. 155.

† Tom. cit. p. 289.

‡ Amer. Naturalist, vi. p. 771.