

by their rufous tail-bands. On the other hand, Mexican examples have grey tail-bands, and appear at first sight to be distinct; hence Prof. Ridgway has separated the northern birds as *Rupornis griseicauda*, and those from Cozumel, which also have grey tails, as *R. gracilis*.

We cannot admit the specific distinctness of *R. ruficauda* and *R. griseicauda*, for in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Guatemala we find a perfect intergradation between these two forms, some specimens having rufous tails suffused with grey, while others have grey tails suffused with rufous. *R. gracilis* is a slightly smaller race of the Mexican *R. griseicauda*, but Cozumel birds are matched by others from Yucatan and Southern Mexico.

The measurements taken from our large series prove that no reliance can be placed on differences of dimension. As a rule, the sexes attain an equal length of wing. The males of *R. ruficauda* from various parts of Central America vary in this respect from 8.1 to 9.4 inches, while the females vary from 8.6 to 9.6 inches. The wing of the grey-tailed Mexican race measures from 8.8 to 9.8 inches in the male, and from 8.9 to 9.9 in the female; that of the Cozumel bird from 7.9 to 9.2 inches, while Bonacca specimens reach to 9.5 inches. Thus it will be seen that, although the smallest male bird we possess is from Cozumel, there are many others from the same island which equal the dimensions of those from the mainland, and as our series shows every possible gradation in size, we have not felt justified in separating them specifically.

Young birds are undoubtedly darker than the adults, and show less rufous on the wings. The tail-bands in immature specimens are six in number, whereas old birds have only four or five light ones.

As will be seen by the list of localities given above, there is scarcely a part of Central America in which *R. ruficauda* does not occur, and from the dates attached to our series of specimens it is apparently a resident throughout our region. In Mexico Sumichrast⁴⁰ states that it is found on both coasts, up to an elevation of 1200 metres, where it is abundant. Mr. Witmer Stone says that in Yucatan it was the commonest Hawk in the neighbourhood of Izamal³⁴.

In Guatemala it abounds in the hot coast-region, and is probably the most abundant of the Accipitres. We obtained specimens from the plains of Zacapa, the Pacific coast-region, the valley of the River Polochic, Choctum, in the forest-region of Vera Paz, and the district of Peten¹⁶. In Nicaragua *R. ruficauda* is abundant, according to Mr. Nutting²⁸, who also found examples in the Gulf of Nicoya, in Costa Rica, where it is the commonest Hawk of the country²⁷.

Although widely distributed, this species is not found in the high mountain districts, but it frequents the lowland plains up to an elevation of about 2500 feet. Its food in Guatemala consisted chiefly of snakes and lizards, though we have also found locusts and centipedes in its stomach^{6 16}. In Costa Rica, Mr. Nutting says that it prefers open woods, although it also occurs in the thickest forests^{28 29}.

The nest and eggs have not been discovered.