

The Status of *Buteo platypterus iowensis*.—The new race of *Buteo platypterus* described by the late Prof. B. H. Bailey as *Buteo platypterus iowensis* ('The Auk,' XXXIV, No. 1, January, 1917, p. 73) was based on a specimen from Eagle Lake, Hancock County, Iowa. Its distinction from *Buteo platypterus platypterus* consists in its sooty brown plumage both above and below; and its geographic distribution extends from Manitoba to Iowa. It develops, however, on further investigation that examples of *Buteo platypterus* of the ordinary light type inhabit the same breeding range in Manitoba, Minnesota, and North Dakota. Since, of course, two geographic races of the same species cannot have identical breeding areas, it follows that we must seek some other reason for the existence of the dark Broad-winged Hawks that live in the upper Mississippi Valley. Mr. Robert Ridgway has already recorded (Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., IX, 1886, p. 248) a dark *Buteo platypterus* from Iowa as an example of melanism in this species; and this evidently is the correct explanation. That nearly all these dark birds come from Iowa, Minnesota, and Manitoba is interesting, but does not militate against the view of their melanistic character, for it is well known that melanism and similar color phases may occur in one part of the range of a species and be totally absent in another. Furthermore, melanism in the genus *Buteo* is of common occurrence; and notable examples of this are *Buteo borealis*, *Buteo swainsoni*, and *Buteo ferox*. From the foregoing it seems necessary to treat *Buteo platypterus iowensis* as a synonym of *Buteo platypterus platypterus*.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

Flight of Horned Owls in Canada.—The article by Mr. Arthur W. Brockway in 'The Auk' (Vol. XXXV, No. 3) upon the 'Large Flight of Great Horned Owls and Goshawks at Wadlyme, Connecticut' has prompted me to revert to the subject in connection with the phenomenon here. Any occurrence of this nature is particularly interesting and especially so among the Raptores of the North.

His information regarding the early November flight in Canada is perfectly correct; vast numbers having appeared at that time throughout the country. Mr. C. W. Nash, of the Provincial Museum, Toronto, informed me that hundreds of Great Horned Owls were noted in that region and in every locality that I have visited the same news of excessive numbers of these birds has reached me.

During the latter part of October, 1917, and the fore part of November I was in the wilderness northeast of Lake Superior. During my entire time there, I never once heard an owl, although they are frequently heard in wilderness camping. I remarked on the apparent absence of the species at the time, and often sat alone on the quiet shores of the lake at night, listening for the voice I had learned to enjoy, but not once did a lonely "hoot" disturb the silence of the solitude.

Every one there also remarked on the scarcity of the Varying Hare, as compared with the numbers usually present. After the first fall of snow