

by two other ornithologists of greater experience than mine, including the Secretary of the Game Protective League, who lives in an island in the lake. I took two pictures at that time, one showing three, the other four of the Turkey Buzzards¹.—JAMES E. HORNING M. D., *Luscar, Alberta.*

The Gyrfalcon in Wisconsin.—The Milwaukee Public Museum recently obtained a fine specimen of the Gyrfalcon, *Falco rusticolus gyrfalco* from Mr. E. D. Ochsner of Prairie du Sac, Wis. The bird was shot by a farmer in Sauk County on October 22, 1916. Unfortunately it was not sexed but measurements indicate that it is a male. The specimen which has been mounted, is No. 13261 of the Museum's collection.

This form has not been previously recorded from Wisconsin, although the closely allied Gray Gyrfalcon has been taken once (Snyder, W. E., *Auk*, Vol. 22, 1905, p. 413).—H. L. STODDARD, *Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wis.*

What is *Buteo rufescens* Salvin and Godman?—In *The Auk* for January, 1922 (page 107) Mr. Ludlow Griscom asks the above question, and probably others have been more or less curious to know what the alleged species really is.

Although I have never seen the type, nor any other specimen labeled with that name, I have never had the least doubt that the specimens so called by Messrs. Salvin and Godman represent merely more richly colored examples of *Buteo borealis calurus*; that is to say, examples that are more or less intermediate between the lighter colored phase and the melanistic phase, and the name had been synonymized by me with the common western form of *B. borealis* in my manuscript of Part IX, 'Birds of North and Middle America.' Specimens agreeing with the characters assigned to *B. rufescens* occur in practically every collection containing a large series of specimens from the general range ascribed to the supposed new species. As Mr. Griscom suggests, however, it may include examples of *B. borealis alascensis*.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Olney, Illinois.*

Richardson's Owl (*Cryptoglaux funerea richardsoni*) In Cohasset, Mass.—It is a custom at our house to have breakfast before daylight on January mornings, near a row of windows outside of which, level with the sills, is a food shelf for birds. At one end of the shelf is a group of ever-green shrubbery; on the opposite end of the shelf stands an ordinary wire bird cage, which we use in our trapping and banding operations. Over the cage end of the shelf is a roof, with a clearance of nine inches between the top of the cage and the roof. Every morning we stock the shelf with a variety of bird food, and scatter more on the ground below and in front of the shelf. The birds begin to come before it is fully daylight, hence our habit is to reduce the electric light within the room to a minimum, and to keep it as far removed from the windows as possible.

¹ Photographs unmistakable.—Ed.

On the morning of January 11, 1923, the conditions described above prevailed, but there was an extraordinary depth of snow for our section. A succession of storms had left us with some fifteen inches of snow on the ground and all the trees and bushes heavily smothered in snow. Before 6.30, while it was still decidedly dusky without, Sparrows of several species, Juncos, etc., began dropping in at the feeding station until there were twenty or more on the ground below the shelf. As a light still glowed within the room, the birds were a little shy of the shelf itself. Suddenly, about 6.45, to our amazement, something large (for the space) plumped noiselessly down upon the top of the cage beneath the overhanging roof, close against the window. It was an Owl, rather a small Owl, with large round head, and he was peering over at the group of small birds beneath him, about four feet away. He swooped down upon them (not greatly to their alarm, it seemed to us), failed to capture any, and returned to the shelf. He perched with his back toward us again, but turned his face squarely around our way this time, owl-fashion. He seemed in some degree aware of our light and of our excited interest, but apparently could not really see my husband's face inside the glass, within five inches of his own! He plunged into the evergreens at the end of the shelf, and then for some reason fluttered against the adjoining window for several seconds—wings spread and lifted, feet dangling, before flying away across the yard toward a group of tall pines in a nearby woodland.

This unexcelled opportunity for studying the Owl from all points and in great detail at close range left no possible doubt that it was Richardson's Owl (*Cryptoglaux funerea richardsoni*) brought here presumably by the recent unusual weather conditions. While we have no mind to let him feed on the smaller regular visitors to our feeding station, we shall look with interest for his possible further appearance.

The notable blindness of this Owl, both in respect to the small birds and to ourselves, we credited to the increasing daylight and to our indoor light. It is especially characteristic of Richardson's Owl, as other observers have stated.—HELEN GRANGER WHITTLE, *Cohasset, Mass.*

Richardson's Owl in Michigan.—On December 20, 1922, a specimen of Richardson's Owl (*Cryptoglaux funerea richardsoni*) was brought to Dr. K. Christofferson and myself by a boy who had shot it the day before, in an old cemetery within the city limits. This is one of our rarest Owls. Two specimens are in our High School Museum, both collected about 20 years ago. We sent the bird to Prof. Barrows of our State Agricultural College.—M. J. MAGEE, *Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.*

Note on the Generic Name *Pteroptochos Kittlitz*.—The status of the generic name *Pteroptochos Kittlitz* (Mém. Acad. Imper. Sci. St. Petersb. Savans Etrangers, I, October, 1831, p. 178), is just like that of *Euscarthmus* Wied. elsewhere explained. It was originally proposed for the three species *Pteroptochos rubecula* Kittlitz, *Pteroptochos albicollis*