

to which an item in the April "General Notes" refers, I thought it might be of passing interest to readers to learn that these specimens, taken more than fifty years ago, have been preserved.—EDW. R. FORD, *Grand Rapids, Mich.*

Correction.—Several notes on the Little Black Rail appearing in recent numbers of 'The Auk,' led me to look over the article on page 88 in the January 1923 issue, in which I described the eastern bird as different from the Jamaican form.

I omitted to state, that the type specimen, *Creciscus jamaicensis stoddardi*, collected by Mr. H. L. Stoddard, was an adult male—in full breeding plumage.—HENRY K. COALE, *Highland Park, Ill.*

Krider's Hawk (*Buteo borealis krideri*) in Arkansas.—On November 2, 1925, a male of this species was shot near Fayetteville by one of the students in the Department of Zoology of the University of Arkansas, who neglected to bring the specimen to the attention of those in charge in time to save the skin. Only the primaries, secondaries, and rectrices were saved, and these are now in the University collection. They were submitted to Dr. H. C. Oberholser, who identified them as belonging to the foregoing species. The stomach of this specimen contained two entire front legs of a cotton-tail.

On December 9, 1925, another male was secured from a farmer who had caught it in a steel trap set beside a dead chicken in his field. The Hawk's stomach was empty. This specimen was also submitted to Dr. Oberholser for his verification. The skin is now in the writer's collection. Within my knowledge, these two records are the first for the state.—ALBERT LANO, *Fayetteville, Arkansas.*

Red-tailed Hawk Killing Snakes.—April 4, 1926, I made a trip over the country towards Buckman. A few miles west of Santa Fe the road follows for several miles the bottom of a narrow valley fringed with rim-rocks on the south side. Some of these cliffs are of considerable proportions and serve as nesting sites for Red-tailed Hawks, Ravens, White-throated Swifts and other birds. Scanning the rocks through my field-glasses I discovered a male Red-tail sitting on a crag. While I was watching the bird, it suddenly dropped down to the base of the cliff, and I could see, that a fierce struggle was taking place. I was not near enough to see, what actually happened, but I could often see the wings of the Hawk raised above the intervening low sagebrush and judged, that the bird was continually changing position. I hurried as fast as I could towards the spot, and when I was about fifty feet away, the Hawk took flight carrying in its talons a medium sized rattlesnake.

May 14, 1921, I saw in the same neighborhood a Red-tail carry off a four foot bull snake. I saw the Hawk pounce, but was too far away to see, what took place. A few moments later the Hawk reappeared carrying something heavy. The bird, with a great flapping of wings, struggled to a

height of about two hundred feet, then spread its wings and sailed towards the west. During its upward flight it came straight over my head about fifty feet up, and I had no trouble to determine, that the object it carried was a quite large bull snake.—J. K. JENSEN, *U. S. Indian School, Santa Fe, N. M.*

Golden Eagle at Houston, Texas.—On Feb. 28, 1926, a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) was shot by H. F. Lindley, at Katy, Texas. It has been mounted, being a well plumaged specimen.—ROBT. B. LAWRENCE, *Houston, Tex.*

The Validity of *Nisuooides morelii* Pollen.—*Nisuooides morelii* Pollen was described from a series of eight birds, brought alive, from Tamatave, western Madagascar to Reunion in 1866. The species was made the type of a distinct genus on a single character, that of the commissure being straight from the end-hook to the gape, whereas in *Astur* or *Accipiter* the commissure is always festooned. The description of plumage of *N. morelii* and of *Astur* (or *Accipiter*) *francesii* Smith are to all intent identical, and in size the two are the same.

Apparently no specimens strictly referable to *Nisuooides* have since been taken, and all descriptions appearing in literature seem to have been re-copied from the original or taken from Grandidier's plate and figures. Recent collections made in the region whence *Nisuooides* came, contain only birds that must be placed with *Astur francesii*.

In the Museum of Comparative Zoology there is a series of seven skins (one adult male, six more or less immature examples of both sexes) from southwestern Madagascar, that exhibits nearly every possible variation, from a bill with a very conspicuous festoon to one in which the commissure is nearly straight; in some birds the festoon is not equally developed on both sides of the bill and in one the cutting edge of the maxilla is so nearly a straight line, that we should have to call this specimen *Nisuooides*, if we thought there was such a genus.

We believe that there is no such bird as *Nisuooides*, and that the type of this supposed genus is nothing more than an example of *Astur francesii* with the commissure presenting a straight line, possibly from extreme individual variation, possibly because the type had been kept alive in captivity and may have worn down its bill on the cage bars or on food unsuited to it. It must be borne in mind that the cutting edge of the maxilla of *A. francesii* and allied species, when festooned, is very thin and papery, and gives one the impression that it would soon wear away if brought in contact with hard objects.

Having satisfied ourselves that *Nisuooides* is not a valid genus, we wrote to Dr. Hartert and asked him for his opinion based on the specimens at Tring. He replied that he not only heartily agreed with us, but that he, wholly independently, had reached the same conclusion himself.

We therefore sink *Nisuooides morelii* Pollen in the synonymy of *Astur*