

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*