

Status of the Genus *Geranoaëtus*.—With the discovery during recent years of remains of eagles in fossil deposits ranging from the Miocene to the Pleistocene several of the larger species have been described in the genus *Geranoaëtus*, three having been thus named by the present writer. General resemblance of these fossil bones in form to living *G. melanoleucus* is close and this current genus has been accepted without particular question as to its validity. During recent studies of another fossil species of this group I took occasion to compare the metatarsi of *Geranoaëtus melanoleucus* and those of several species of *Buteo* to find that no character except that of size separated them. This same condition held for other skeletal elements. Externally *Geranoaëtus* has been separated from *Buteo* on larger size and proportionally shorter tail as compared to the wing. In the various species of *Buteo* there is considerable difference in the relative length of the tail, grading down to *Buteo jakal* where it is less in relation to the wing than in *Geranoaëtus melanoleucus*, thus eliminating that character of difference. As size alone cannot be considered of generic value *Geranoaëtus* becomes a synonym of *Buteo*. The various species, fossil and living, formerly placed in *Geranoaëtus* will therefore stand as follows:

- Buteo dananus* (Marsh). Miocene.
- Buteo ales* (Wetmore). Miocene.
- Buteo contortus* (Wetmore). Upper Miocene.
- Buteo conterminus* (Wetmore). Lower Pliocene.
- Buteo grinnelli* (Miller). Pleistocene.
- Buteo fragilis* (Miller). Pleistocene.
- Buteo melanoleucus* (Vieillot). Modern.

There may be mentioned as of the same assemblage the fossil *Buteo typhoivus* Wetmore from the Upper Miocene of the Snake Creek beds in Nebraska.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum*.

A Black Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus obsoletus*) from New Hampshire.—A bird of this form was shot "about twenty miles this side, (i. e. southeastward) of Colebrook, New Hampshire," October 22, 1915, and was brought to a taxidermist in Portland, Maine. It remained uncalled for and I purchased it. It is now deposited in the collection of the Portland Society of Natural History.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Museum Natural History, Portland, Maine*.

Turkey Vulture at Ludlow, Mass.—On September 17, 1932, a little party of bird-lovers was picnicking on the shores of the big Springfield Reservoir in Ludlow. We saw what we at first took for an Osprey, but as it came nearer we all saw that its underparts were not white but black, the wings not bent much at the midway point, and their tips up-tilted, wide, each feather deeply separated. Approaching us up-wind, lightly and airily but slowly, it passed between us and the sun, which shone through its wings and gave their under surface the appearance of an elaborate pattern in light and dark grays. A puff turned it northward and for a second we

caught the reflection of sunlight on its upper-parts, which shone bronzily. Righting itself, it passed us, westward, very near, and we all noticed its unnaturally small head and unusually long tail with very rounded end; so, despite the tricks the sun had played with it, there could be no question that it was a Turkey Vulture—immature, since the head showed no red—that had strayed or been blown a long way from home. It seems, this is the second record for the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts—the first being a specimen in the Springfield Museum of Natural History that was shot at Becket (40 miles farther west) on June 8, 1905.—S. A. ELIOT, JR., Northampton, Mass.

A Second Specimen of the Fossil Bird *Bathornis veredus*.¹—In fossil material collected in the summer of 1932 under direction of Mr. C. W. Gilmore, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology in the U. S. National Museum, there is included the distal end of a left metatarsus of a bird of considerable interest since it develops on careful study that it is a second specimen of *Bathornis veredus* Wetmore.²

The specimen in question (Cat. No. 12,705 U. S. Nat. Mus. Div. Vert. Pal.) was obtained in the Titanotherium beds of the Oligocene on the ranch of Geo. Everson, eleven miles northwest of Crawford, Nebraska, on July 13, 1932, by M. V. Walker. It includes the distal portion of the bone, with the fourth trochlea missing, and the shaft more or less crushed and flattened so that the original form is obscured.

This specimen when compared with the type of *Bathornis veredus* agrees closely in size and details with the single exception that the second trochlea viewed from its posterior surface is somewhat broader and heavier on its lower, free end. Other characters appear identical in the two specimens, the type being from the right side. The difference noted is considered an individual variation, particularly in view of the fact that the deposits in the Oligocene from which these two specimens have come are not widely separated in point of time.

Following is a detailed description of the new specimen: A groove indicated leading into the inferior foramen, only the upper margin of which is present; middle trochlea strong and robust with well marked excavations on either side, and a pronounced groove extending around articular surface, which on the anterior surface terminates at the upper end in a slight depression; outer flange of groove on posterior surface projecting slightly beyond inner; lower margin of inner trochlea not reaching to center of middle trochlea; inner trochlea flattened laterally, with deep excavations on inner and outer faces, square and blocklike in form, posteriorly nearly as wide as anteriorly; a slight groove on posterior surface; margin produced posteriorly as a compressed plate that, viewed laterally, is rounded in outline; inner trochlea decidedly small when compared with middle

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² *Bathornis veredus* Wetmore, Proc. Colorado Mus. Nat. Hist., vol. 7, no. 2, 1927, p. 11, figs. 19–23. Chadron, Oligocene, Weld County, Colorado.