

with the Huerfano carpometacarpus. The oldest accipitrids are *Palaeocircus cuvieri* Milne-Edwards, *Aquilavus hypogaeus* (Milne-Edwards), and *A. corroyi* (Gaillard), all from Upper Eocene (or Lower Oligocene) deposits of France. Kitelike birds of the genera *Milvus* and *Promilo* are found in Lower Miocene deposits of France and the United States (Nebraska and Florida). The fossil carpometacarpus provides evidence for the presence of an early Tertiary line of hawklike (or kitelike?) birds, which was distinct from presently known forms.

SUBFAMILY BUTEONINAE, GENUS *Buteo*

Material.—Complete left ulna, American Museum of Natural History F: A. M. No. 42996, from Upper Oligocene sediments (from one of the lowest *Protoceras* channels, about 100 feet above the base of the Poleside Member of the Brule Formation; for stratigraphic information see Bump, Amer. J. Sci., 254: 429, 1956), northeast of Indian Stronghold, Washington County, South Dakota.

Measurements.—Length 93.0 mm; width (external to internal) across cotylae 10.5 mm; width of external condyle (palmar to anconal direction) 7.5 mm; the shaft is crushed and was not measured.

Remarks.—The characters of the fossil ulna suggest a close relationship to the genus *Buteo*, and in fact it differs from that genus in only one feature, namely, the external cotyla is more distally oriented so that it more closely parallels the shaft of the bone. The fossil is approximately the same size as the living *Buteo platypterus*.

Six species of the genus *Buteo* have been described from Oligocene and Miocene sediments, as follows: *B. grangeri* Wetmore and Case, Middle Oligocene (lower Brule Formation); *B. fluviaticus* A. H. Miller and Sibley, Middle Oligocene (lower Brule Formation); *B. antecursor* Wetmore, Late Oligocene (Brule Formation); *B. ales* (Wetmore), Early Miocene (Harrison Formation); *B. contortus* (Wetmore), Late Miocene (lower portion of Snake Creek Beds); and *B. typhoius* Wetmore, Late Miocene (lower portion of Snake Creek beds). All of these birds were too large to have had an ulna as small as the one reported here.

Without additional material it does not seem advisable to apply a name to the fossil ulna, a bone that is not an especially diagnostic element. It is doubtful whether the fossil can be distinguished from species place in Recent genera that are closely related to *Buteo* but which may not be osteologically separable from that genus (Amadon, Condor, 65: 407, 1963, for a discussion of fossil and Recent species of hawks). Hence the fossil is assigned to the genus *Buteo* simply as a matter of convenience.

I especially wish to thank Malcolm C. McKenna for allowing me to study these fossils. The authorities of the Department of Ornithology, American Museum of Natural History, and the Division of Birds, United States National Museum, graciously permitted me the use of their collections. Dean Amadon and Walter J. Bock made helpful comments.—JOEL CRACRAFT, *Department of Biological Sciences, Columbia University, New York, New York 10027*.

A Black-capped Chickadee variant.—Throughout the winter of 1966–67 a Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*) with unusual plumage came almost daily to my home window feeder in Plainfield, New Hampshire. Instead of the normal black “bib,” this chickadee had a narrow band of black feathers at the throat, which prompted my children to name the bird “Bowtie” (Figure 1). In all other respects

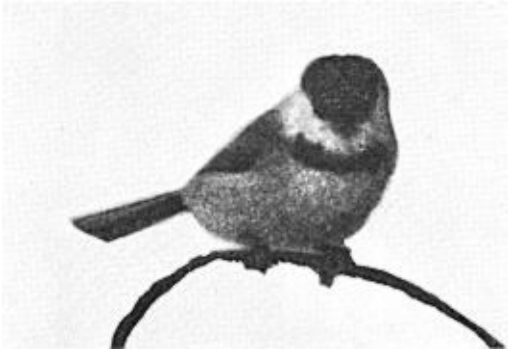


Figure 1. Aberrant Black-capped Chickadee photographed in Plainfield, New Hampshire.

this individual appeared to be the same as the rest of the flock of Black-capped Chickadees that frequent our feeding stations.

The next winter the variant, or a similar aberrant individual, again appeared. While we suspected the presence of more than one of these birds, we were not certain until we saw two such individuals together at the feeder. We then noted that one of the variants had a yellow lower mandible.

Several days later at a friend's home about 6 miles away in Meriden, New Hampshire, I saw a similar variant chickadee. When I commented on this I was told several such birds had been seen during the winter. Subsequent unconfirmed sightings of apparently similar variants have been reported to me from Norwich, Vermont and Lyme, New Hampshire, 12 and 23 miles, respectively, north of Plainfield.

Although the variants at our feeder appeared to be part of a larger flock, we noted that they were somewhat ostracized by the population at large and usually fed on the ground below the feeding station when other birds of the flock occupied it. No particular association between the variants was ever observed.

While Tanner (*Auk*, 51: 240, 1934) describes a partially melanistic Black-capped Chickadee collected near Ithaca, New York and Sweet (pers. comm.) reports two similar birds, one of which he banded, during the winter of 1965-66 in Glastonbury, Connecticut, I have been unable to find a prior record of the aberrant form reported here.—RICHARD J. LOW, *Department of Pathology, Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, New Hampshire 03755*.

Diving times of the Least Grebe and Masked Duck.—In 1963 the Least Grebe (*Podiceps dominicus*) and the Masked Duck (*Oxyura dominica*) fed by diving and swimming beneath the surface of the pond on the grounds of the Instituto Interamericano de Ciencias Agrícolas near Turrialba, Costa Rica. None of the other summer residents on this 3.6-hectare, 2 m-deep pond fed by diving.

A comparison of diving times and of intervals between dives during active feeding bouts is presented in Table 1. The average diving time of the Masked Duck (recorded 30 July 1963) was almost twice that of the Least Grebe (recorded 3 August 1963). The diving times are significantly different ($P < 0.001$, $t = 6.62$). The surface pause times are not significantly different.