

*Geranoaëtus melanoleucus* but larger, and relatively more robust." Since *fluviaticus* is the same size as *Buteo* (*Geranoaëtus*) *melanoleucus*, it follows that *B. contortus* is larger than *fluviaticus*. Regardless of size, *contortus* has a longer first trochlea (digit II) than *fluviaticus*.

*Buteo coterminus* (Wetmore, *op. cit.*: 497-499) differs from *B. fluviaticus* in having a more massive inner trochlea and in larger size.

*Buteo ales* (Wetmore, Ann. Carnegie Mus., 16, 1926:403) from the Miocene is smaller (16.2 mm. across condyles) than *B. fluviaticus*. The illustration accompanying the description of *ales* shows no indication of an intermuscular line on the outer face of the external trochlea as in *fluviaticus*.

*Buteo antecursor* (Wetmore, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 75, 1933:298-300) from the Upper Oligocene is somewhat smaller (18.1 mm. across condyles) than *fluviaticus* and differs among other things in its convex rather than straight lateral contour of the outer metatarsal. However, *antecursor* seems to have many characters which parallel those of *fluviaticus*. The metatarsal facet is relatively long and extends far up the shaft. The second trochlea is also more massive than in later forms such as *B. ales*. In these respects the Oligocene species resemble each other. This suggests a line of development from the older to the more recent types.

*Buteo dananus* (Marsh, Amer. Jour. Sci., ser. 3, 2, 1871:125) was described from a tibiotarsus. It is smaller than *B. melanoleucus*.

In the same quarry with the type of *fluviaticus* was a well preserved proximal third of a femur representing a hawk of the same size as the type. This femur is exactly the same size as the corresponding element in *B. melanoleucus*. It is therefore referred to *B. fluviaticus* but since it is lacking in diagnostic characters, it is not included in the description. The following list serves to review the relative position in the geologic time scale of the several species of *Buteo* from the Tertiary of North America.

Lower Pliocene	<i>Buteo coterminus</i>
Upper Miocene	<i>B. contortus</i> , <i>B. typhoius</i> ,
Lower Miocene	<i>B. ales</i>
Upper Oligocene	<i>B. antecursor</i>
Middle Oligocene	<i>B. grangeri</i> , <i>B. fluviaticus</i>

—ALDEN H. MILLER and CHARLES G. SIBLEY, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, December 5, 1941.*

**Black Swift in Orange County, California.**—About five o'clock on August 10, 1941, and again at about the same time on the following day, I saw a single Black Swift (*Nephoecetes niger*) flying high in a southeasterly direction over a bluff at Corona del Mar, Orange County, California. This is a sight record but I feel very sure of my identification.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, September 4, 1941.*

**Whooping Cranes in Texas in Summer.**—The Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) is a regular winter resident of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Aransas and Refugio counties, Texas. A few also spend the winter in salt marshes and along bay shores of other sections of these counties and in Calhoun County. Extreme dates of occurrence on the refuge, up to this spring, are October 21 (1938 and 1939) and May 6 (1939).

It was therefore a surprise to note that one of our wintering family groups was still present on the refuge's east shore flats near Mullet Bay, Aransas County, on May 16, 1941. This group consisted of two adults with their single young, apparently hatched in 1940. The birds have been observed frequently since then in the same general area and are still here (October 10). Courtship of the adults was noted by Everett Beaty and the writer on May 16 and as late as May 23. No evidence of nesting was observed.

This family formed part of a group of 26 birds (21 adults and 5 immatures) which spent the winter of 1940-1941 on the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. It is possible that some of these were birds which would normally remain in Louisiana in winter. Mr. John J. Lynch (in litt., September 10, 1941) states: "Our Louisiana cranes were badly scattered by high water last fall [1940]. Flood water stood three and four feet deep over most of their range from August until late October, and never did drop down to normal until this summer. Concensus of opinion is that most of the birds 'went down the Texas Coast.'"

The only other definite summer record for the State, which I can find, is also for the Gulf coast of southern Texas. Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 135, 1926:229) quotes Mr. Richard M. Kleberg as stating that there were, in 1919, 16 cranes on the King Ranch, in Kleberg County, which grew from a flock of 3 which bred there. Bent makes the comment that there is no positive evidence of their

breeding in that locality but that some birds do remain there throughout the year. The latitude of the refuge area ( $28^{\circ} 10'$ ) in which cranes spent the summer is farther south than the region in southern Louisiana in which Whooping Cranes are resident birds. There are persistent reports that Whooping Cranes have nested and reared young in the marshes of Vermilion Parish but additional information is needed to verify this.

The number of cranes on the refuge has steadily increased over the past three years. However, if the ratio of adults to young is any index of the status of the species as a whole, the outlook for the survival of the Whooping Cranes is most discouraging as proportionately fewer immature birds arrive on the Texas coast each autumn. Mr. Lynch believes that the status of cranes in Louisiana is none too favorable even though many of the birds may be non-migratory. Adults are in constant danger of being driven out of the White Lake marshes by natural factors, such as floods, and thus being forced to move to near-by prairie lands where they are exposed to illegal hunters.—JAMES O. STEVENSON, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austwell, Texas, October 10, 1941.*

**Trade Value of the Beak of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.**—In the Condor for July, 1939 (p. 164), A. M. Bailey notes the finding of a beak of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) in an Indian grave in Colorado and correctly assumes that it must have been made available through trade channels. It is of interest to recall the probably basic statement on this subject by Mark Catesby (*Nat. Hist. Carolina, etc., 1791, 1:16*: the original edition was published from 1731 to 1743). He wrote: "The bills of these birds are much valued by the Canada Indians, who make coronets of them for their Princes and great warriors . . . The Northern Indians, having none of these birds in their cold country, purchase them of the Southern people at the price of two, and sometimes three buck-skins a bill." Buffon and others have drawn upon this statement for their references to the subject.—W. L. McATEE, *Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C., October 22, 1941.*

**Starlings in Southern Utah.**—On January 2, 1941, a large flock of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) was seen at Mt. Carmel, Kane County, Utah. It was estimated that the birds numbered approximately 200. That afternoon when I again passed through Mt. Carmel I looked for them, but could find no trace of the flock. Apparently the birds were drifting and had gone on down the valley.—RUSSELL K. GRATER, *Zion National Park, Utah, October 25, 1941.*

**Golden Eagles Visit Northern Arizona Desert.**—On a visit to Grand Canyon National Monument, September 23 to 26, 1941, a total of eight Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and one Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) were seen, indicating a definite fall movement of these birds to desert areas. When descending the Kaibab Plateau going from Jacobs Lake to Fredonia on September 23, we saw a dead Golden Eagle which had been shot. Wing feathers were obtained as evidence. Crossing the desert toward Fredonia, we saw a mature (white head and tail) Bald Eagle in flight. Returning over the same route next day a Golden Eagle was seen in flight over the desert near Fredonia and another one between Pipe Springs and the Grand Canyon National Monument. Another was seen soaring above the cliffs of Toroweap Valley that afternoon.

Returning from Toroweap Valley to Fredonia on the 24th we noted a Golden Eagle in flight and heard it call, then noted a second one. Both alighted in the top of a piñon pine a couple of hundred yards away. They took flight before a photograph could be taken. Nearer Pipe Springs another was seen in flight and still another very large one was observed perched on a rock on open sagebrush desert. On September 25 one was seen in flight and another perched on a telephone post in similar desert surroundings near Fredonia. Certainly here was evidence of a fall movement of eagles from their usual mountain habitats to open sagebrush desert. Their low flight and low perching places indicated a diligent search for rodent prey. On this trip Marsh Hawks (*Circus hudsonius*) were also unusually abundant. September also brought several records of the Golden Eagle for Grand Canyon.—HAROLD C. BRYANT, *Grand Canyon, Arizona, October 5, 1941.*