

On May 3, 1908, it was my good fortune to observe one of these handsome birds in Forest Hill Cemetery of this city, and after watching it closely for perhaps half an hour Mr. Norman Wood of the Museum was called to the scene and verified the identification, also suggesting the possibility of a nest. Although diligent search was made for the latter, several nests apparently of the proper construction being examined, nothing was found which could positively be connected with the heron. Later in the day the bird was shot by a student, Mr. Max Peet of the University, thus preventing any further study of the bird in the field.

Laboratory examination showed the specimen to be a male, and even in the field it was readily observed that the plumage was that of an immature bird, as there was no decided black or gray about it.

Detailed examination of the skin and comparison with Audubon's excellent description at once showed the specimen to be a bird of the second year. Audubon is here quoted for the purpose of conveying a better idea of this plumage:—"Young of second year, similar to adults but scapulars and interscapulars cinereous, like the wings and the white of the forehead obscured by the blackish of the crown; the colors generally more sombre with neck and lower parts more decidedly ashy." In this specimen, besides tallying with the above, a few black feathers were found in the scapulars, showing that the bird was apparently just gaining its mature plumage. The crown plumes were three in number, pure white and of variable length, the longest being about six inches.—A. D. TINKER, *Ann Arbor, Mich.*

**The Turkey Buzzard near Schenectady, N. Y.**—I have been an interested reader of 'The Auk' for many years, during which time I have by degrees become educated to the fact that the Turkey Buzzard (*Cathartes aura*) has a penchant for roaming far afield. A few weeks ago I examined a stuffed specimen at the home of the owner, Mr. W. Mephan, who killed it on a Saturday afternoon in June, 1899. The bird was first observed roosting high on the dead branches of the tree from which he was shot. The bird was killed on the Toll farm situated in the town of Glenville, about three miles northwest of Schenectady. There is no question as to the authenticity of this record for the reason that I am personally acquainted with the brother of the man who killed the bird, and who was present at the time it was killed. I believe this is the most northerly record for the State.—LANGDON GIBSON, *Schenectady, N. Y.*

**Migration of Hawks.**—Mr. Robt. Barbour's letter in the January number of 'The Auk' (XXV, pp. 82-84) describing the migration of a large number of hawks has interested me very much. For a number of years past I have observed the migration of hawks, and have repeatedly seen, I should say, thousands of hawks. On September 22, 1907, the numbers exceeded, I believe, any ever observed before. I was on the top of a mountain near Stag Lake, Sussex County, N. J., about 1200 feet above

sea level, from where I had an unobstructed view for miles of country all around me. My object was to observe the migration of hawks, and I was armed with a Hensoldt Binocular eight power glass. The day was clear, and at one time late in the forenoon, several thousand hawks, Broadwings mostly, were in view. They came from a northeasterly direction which would take them directly to the Shawangunk Mountain, Ellenville, and Lake Minnewaska, N. Y., sixty miles northeast from my place, where a similar flight was observed by Mr. Barbour and Mr. Kirk Monroe. A constant stream of birds, very high up, could be seen for a long while, and they were going in the direction of the Delaware Water Gap. Over the valley to the southwest of me, the birds seemed to collect into an immense flock, while hundreds, if not thousands of birds were gyrating around and around, describing smaller and larger circles in the air, in heights of from, I should judge, 600 to 2,000 feet above the earth. Most birds were Broadwings. There were, however, other hawks such as Red-tails and Red-shoulders among them, while the "Accipiter" genus was represented by some Cooper's Hawks and more Sharp-shinned, which, however, were mostly flying lower and took no part in the general evolution. Some days I have observed about every species of hawks that we find in this part of the country, from the same stand. By decoying them with either a live or mechanically moving stuffed Great Horned Owl, I have taken some very successful and interesting photographs, and have secured hundreds of specimens with the gun.

Where this annual migration of hawks begins and where it ends, I do not know. If notes could be collected further north and south than Ulster County, N. Y., and Sussex County, N. J., the lane of migration might be well defined. The most extensive migrations occur just before a storm.—JUSTUS VON LINGERKE, *New York City*.

**A New Name for the Texan Barred Owl.**—By the changes in the names of the genera of owls lately made by the A. O. U. Committee, by which *Strix* takes the place of *Syrnium*, my name for the Texan Barred Owl becomes preoccupied, there already being a *Strix helvola* of Lichtenstein (Verz. Samml. Säugeth. und Vögeln Kafferlande, p. 11, 1842). I therefore propose for the Texan Barred Owl, ***Strix varia albogilva*** nom. nov. The subspecies was originally described as *Syrnium nebulosum helvololum* Bangs, Proc. New Eng. Zoöl. Club, Vol. I, p. 31, March 31, 1899. The type of course remains the same, — adult ♀, No. 4551, Coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, Corpus Christi, Texas, Feb. 2, 1899.—OUTRAM BANGS, *Boston, Mass.*

**The Breeding Season of *Strix pratincola* in South Carolina.**—The contribution of Mr. Arthur T. Wayne in 'The Auk' for January, 1908, concerning the breeding of the Barn Owl in South Carolina during the autumn, suggests that the following notes regarding the nesting of the bird in that State in April might be of interest.