

Accordingly he saved only the head and right wing, and on January 8 brought them to the writer at Floyd's Island in Okefinokee Swamp. These parts, which were preserved for the U. S. Biological Survey collection, readily establish the identity of the bird as *Melopelia asiatica asiatica*.

This constitutes apparently the first record of the species in Georgia.—  
FRANCIS HARPER, *Washington, D. C.*

**The Harpy Eagle in Colorado.**— In *November, 1902*, the following skit appeared in one of the Denver daily papers (probably the Republican).

"First Harpy eagle found in Colorado — Owner will make his the Only Mounted Specimen Known in United States. Pueblo, Colo., Nov. 29.— (Special). What is thought is the first specimen of the Harpy Eagle ever met with in Colorado has been sent to Capt. W. F. Dortenbach of this city by George H. Cress of Lees, Colo. It measures 7 feet, 11 inches, from tip to tip, and 42 inches, from beak to tail. It weighs 30 pounds. The bird is of a species exceedingly rare. So far as is known there are no mounted specimens in the country. The Smithsonian institute at Washington has several skins. The captain will at once mount the specimen, and will communicate with the leading ornithologists of the country."

The undersigned sent a letter to Capt. Dortenbach, asking for further data concerning this newspaper note and received the following reply:—

"Pueblo, Colo., Feb. 9. 1903.

Dr. W. H. Bergtold,  
624 14th St., Denver.

*Dear Sir:*

Your favor of Feb. 2nd to hand. The Eagle of which you saw a note in the papers some time ago is still in my possession. Its identification was by myself but I only have Coues Key to North American Birds and as it is quite old it may be somewhat faulty. We are still working at the identification of the specimen and if it should prove to be a harpy eagle I will give you all the necessary data when I make my report to the Society. Thanking you for the inquiry and trusting that I may be able to meet you when I visit Denver again.

Very respectfully yours,

(signed) W. F. Dortenbach."

During the succeeding fourteen years this matter returned to the writer's mind several times, but, never having received further word from Capt. Dortenbach (which his letter promised in case the specimen should prove to be a harpy eagle), it was concluded that, on careful further study at Pueblo, it had been found that the bird was not a harpy eagle.

It was a matter of much surprise to the writer to find this old news-

paper record resurrected recently, and used to erect a record for this species in Colorado.<sup>1</sup>

This list by Lowe places in scientific ornithological literature a record of a bird which has hitherto not been observed in the United States, and one of (probable) great rarity even in Mexico, and is a record based on data which seem rather dubious, and clouded by uncertainty. The writer's interest in Colorado ornithology impelled him to send two other letters of inquiry to Capt. Dortenbach but they remain unanswered up to the present moment (December 4, 1917). The above facts are published, not only to add to the completeness of this alleged record, but to exhibit the ground on which the writer personally feels warranted in rejecting this record, and in advising his ornithological confreres to do likewise.—  
W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*

**The Happy Eagle in Colorado.**—An interesting example of the great care necessary in placing occurrences of rare species on permanent record, is contained in 'The Auk' for October, 1917. In a paper appearing in this issue by Mr. Willoughby P. Lowe, entitled 'Remarks on Colorado Birds,' is a record for the Harpy Eagle, *Thrasaëtus harpyia*, which, if valid, would not only be new for the Colorado list, but in all probability would constitute the only record for North America. The occurrence is based on a specimen "shot by Geo. Cress of Lees, Pueblo Co., some years ago and preserved by (W. F.) Doertenbach of Pueblo".

Immediately upon noting the above, I wrote to Mr. Doertenbach, who had previously afforded me considerable assistance in clearing up other records credited to Colorado, asking for a statement regarding the specimen and for the address of Mr. Cress. An interesting correspondence ensued which, through the courtesy of Mr. Doertenbach, I am permitted to use, together with a photograph of the mounted specimen, still in the possession of Mr. Cress, now of Carson City, Nevada. In replying to my original inquiry, Mr. Doertenbach wrote in part, as follows:—" . . . the specimen . . . we think is a Harpy Eagle. . . [and I] . . . will . . . send you a photo of the mounted specimen. The bird was not mounted with the ruff about the head spread so it will not resemble the specimens in the National Museum collections. Also the specimen was larger than the one displayed in that collection and the feathers about the head were not so grey. . . . The bird in question may not have been a Harpy but it is distinctly different from any other eagle that I have ever handled".

From the photograph sent with the above it was at once apparent that the bird was not a Harpy but was an immature Bald Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*, which is, however, rare in Colorado. The peculiar plumage of the young of the latter species evidently caused the confusion. I thereupon had the photograph of the Harpy Eagle in Mr. C. W. Beebe's book

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<sup>1</sup> Remarks on Colorado Birds. Willoughby P. Lowe. Auk, October, 1917, p. 454.