

no doubt be interested in the following account quoted from the 'Journal of Agriculture of South Australia' (Vol. 22, No. 7, Feb. 1919, pp. 556-57):

"The Murray River settlements are this year suffering an invasion of black-tailed native hens, *Tribonyx ventralis*. These birds, which have the habit of migrating in flocks, are visiting some of the irrigation settlements in countless thousands, and have already done considerable damage by eating out lucerne plots and other green crops, and devouring fruit. In some cases fruitgrowers found it necessary to stack trays on which apricots were being dried, and there is considerable apprehension in some quarters in regard to the safety of the grape crop.

One satisfactory feature in so far as the native hen is concerned is that the experience of the past suggests that it appears only at long intervals. In 1846 it is reported that the bird invaded the streets of Adelaide, in 1886 it reached Perth, and Northern Victoria was visited in 1909."—W. L. McATEE, *Washington, D. C.*

***Sarcidiornis sylvicola* in Venezuela.**—I should like to report the collection of three living specimens of *Sarcidiornis sylvicola* Ihering, in November, 1918, near Barcelona, Venezuela. These birds were taken by Gustave Sebillé, a professional collector, who netted them in a nearby lagoon. They are now living in the New York Zoological Park. There are two males and one female, just beginning to assume adult plumage, the combs of the males being represented by a slight swelling at the base of the upper mandible. The resemblance between these birds when in immature plumage and wild Muscovy Ducks of the same age is striking, though the legs of the comb ducks are noticeably longer.

As they were quite immature when taken, it is reasonable to suppose they were reared in the vicinity of their capture. Barcelona is on the northern coast of Venezuela. The distribution of *Sarcidiornis sylvicola* is given by Brabourne and Chubb as Brazil, Paraguay and northern Argentina, so the present record seems to imply a considerable extension of range.—LEE S. CRANDALL, *New York Zoological Park.*

Occurrence of the Red Phalarope in Pennsylvania.—Mr. Edmund Cocks recently sent to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia for identification, a specimen of the Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) which had been picked up in a dying condition near George School, Bucks County, Pa., on December 15, 1918. Later the specimen was mounted and presented to the local collection at the Academy. So far as I can ascertain this is the first record of the species in the state, and even on the coast of New Jersey we have very few records, the Northern Phalarope being the most frequent of the three species of the family. Curiously enough shortly after the capture of this specimen a skin of the same species was presented to the Academy by Dr. C. E. Ehinger, which had been secured near Lenape, Chester Co., Pa., at about the same time.

West Chester is about forty miles southwest of George School. The two occurrences would seem to indicate that a flock of these birds had been blown inland from the ocean and that these and perhaps others had become exhausted.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.*

The Status of the Genus *Archibuteo*, Brehm.—Since proposing (The Auk, XXXVII, No. 2, April, 1919, p. 282) to change the name of the genus *Archibuteo* Brehm to *Triorchis* Kaup, the writer has had occasion to investigate the generic status of this group. The two Rough-legged Hawks, *Falco lagopus* Brünnich and *Falco ferrugineus* Lichtenstein, have for a long time been generically segregated from the species of *Buteo* because they have the tarsi completely feathered in front and on the sides. Dr. Hartert has recently (Hand-List Brit. Birds, 1912, p. 115; Vögel paläarkt. Fauna, Heft IX [Band II, Heft 3], October, 1914, pp. 1114, 1128–1131), advocated the elimination of *Archibuteo* as a genus because of the intermediate character of some species of *Buteo*. The results of our own study may be worthy of brief notice in print, as they seem, much to our surprise, completely to justify Dr. Hartert's position. The common Rough-legged Hawk of Europe, *Archibuteo lagopus lagopus* (Brünnich), and its North American subspecies, *Archibuteo lagopus sanctijohannis* (Gmelin) exhibit the extreme extent of feathering on the tarsus, which in these birds extends over the base of the toes. This condition, compared with that seen in *Falco buteo* Linnæus, the type of the genus *Buteo* Lacépède, would seem to indicate that *Archibuteo* is an excellent genus. Examination of other species of both groups shows, however, that in this character there is a complete chain of intermediates connecting *Archibuteo lagopus* with *Buteo buteo*, through *Buteo augur*, *Buteo desertorum*, *Buteo leucocephalus*, and *Buteo ferox*. In fact, *Archibuteo ferrugineus* is also somewhat intermediate in this respect, since the feathering on its tarsus does not cover the base of the toes, nor in some specimens even the lower end of the tarsus. Some examples of *Buteo ferox* have the tarsus feathered in front, even to the base of the toes; and *Buteo leucocephalus* has it covered for at least the upper two-thirds. Failing other characters to separate *Archibuteo lagopus* from *Buteo* it must be included in that group. Contrasted with *Archibuteo lagopus lagopus* and *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*, the American species *Archibuteo ferrugineus* looks very different, with its broad bill and rather long tarsus; and Mr. C. J. Maynard (Birds Eastern North Amer., pt. 40, 1896, p. 691) has generically separated it under the name *Brewsteria*, because of these differences, its much heavier sterno-trachialis muscle, and the lack of glandular ridges on the proventriculus. The broad bill and rather long tarsi are shared almost completely by *Buteo leucocephalus* and *Buteo ferox*; the glandular ridges on the proventriculus in *Archibuteo lagopus* are, Mr. A. Wetmore thinks, merely adventitious wrinkles; while the heavier sterno-trachialis muscle as compared with *Archibuteo lagopus* is doubtless merely a difference due to the larger size of *Archibuteo ferrugi-*