

Buteonidæ versus Accipitridæ.—The name of the family of Falconiformes, now called Buteonidæ, has been recently changed to Aquilidæ by Dr. Ernst Hartert (Vögel Paläarkt. Fauna, Heft VIII [Vol. 2, Heft II], August, 1913, p. 1087). If this alteration was made because the generic name *Aquila* Brisson (Ornith., I, 1760, p. 419) was supposed to be the genus in this family first described, the fact that *Accipiter* Brisson appeared on an earlier page of the same volume (Ornith., I, 1760, p. 310) was apparently overlooked. Hence, if the earliest described generic name be considered the necessary basis for the family name, the family of birds now known as Buteonidæ must be called Accipitridæ instead of Aquilidæ. If, on the other hand, we consider that the type genus of this group is the one on which the family name was first based, the designation of this family will still become Accipitridæ; since Vigors (Zool. Journ., I, 1824, p. 316), who was the first to subdivide the original family Falconidæ, created five groups, which he called "Stirps," as follows: *Accipitrina*, *Falconina*, *Buteonina*, *Milvina*, and *Aquilina*; and in seeking a name for the remainder of the family after the separation of the true Falcons, we must take the first mentioned group in Vigors' list, which is, of course, *Accipitrina*, based on *Accipiter*, as the type genus. Thus, if we determine the proper family name of the Buteonidæ by either of these two rules, its designation will become Accipitridæ.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

Snowy Owl in Detroit, Mich.—A fine male specimen of the Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*), in perfect winter plumage, was captured on Belle Isle, Detroit, April 14, by Mr. Robert Flowerday, superintendent of the park, and is now in a cage at the Zoo. The bird was shot twice, and so badly wounded that it was believed at the time that it would not survive, but it was cared for successfully, although at first refusing to eat. So far as is known, this is the first time that a Snowy Owl has come to this vicinity and remained so late, although there is a previous record (Taverner) of one having been seen at the Flats, April 5, 1906. The late wandering of this bird is all the more remarkable from the fact that the winter was one of exceptional mildness during all the months.—ETTA S. WILSON, *Detroit, Mich.*

The Name of the Black Cuckoo.—Hartert (Nov. Zool., X, 1903, p. 232), in his review of the genus *Eudynamys*, considered it logical to treat the forms of the Black Cuckoo as subspecies of *orientalis*, based on *Cuculus orientalis* Linné (Syst. Nat., I, 1766, p. 168), which he regarded as the oldest name, and which in the twelfth edition of Linné has page precedence over *C. honoratus*, *C. scolopaceus*, and *C. niger*. At present the name *orientalis* is restricted to the bird from Southern Moluccas, while *honoratus* is applied to the Indian bird, with *scolopaceus* and *niger*, both from Bengal, as synonyms. As a matter of fact, however, the names *C. scolopaceus* and *C. niger* had previously been used by Linné in the tenth edition (Syst. Nat., I, 1758, p. 111), based respectively on "The Brown and Spotted Indian Cuckoo"