

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"

and "The Black Indian Cuckow" of Edwards (Nat. Hist. Birds, II, 1747, pl. 59 and pl. 58), which represent quite unmistakably the species in question. The name *scolopaceus*, which stands first on the page, should be used for the species, and the fourteen races currently recognized must be known as:—

- Eudynamys scolopacea scolopacea* (Linné).
Eudynamys scolopacea malayana Cabanis and Heine.
Eudynamys scolopacea harterti Ingram.
Eudynamys scolopacea mindanensis (Linné).
Eudynamys scolopacea facialis Wallace.
Eudynamys scolopacea melanorhyncha S. Müller.
Eudynamys scolopacea orientalis (Linné).
Eudynamys scolopacea everetti Hartert.
Eudynamys scolopacea rufiventer (Lesson).
Eudynamys scolopacea alberti Rothschild and Hartert.
Eudynamys scolopacea salvadorii Hartert.
Eudynamys scolopacea cyanocephala (Latham).
Eudynamys scolopacea subcyanocephala Mathews.
Eudynamys scolopacea flindersii Vigors and Horsfield.

THOMAS E. PENARD, *Arlington, Mass.*

Aerial Evolutions of a Flicker.— While out with the class in bird study on May 25, 1919, my attention was attracted to a large bird going through some very peculiar maneuvers. He was just across a ravine and about four hundred yards away from where we stood. When first noticed, he was about fifty feet from the ground and ascending in peculiar, bumpy, and jerky spirals. This was maintained until a height of about 350–400 feet was reached, when, after a short pause, a reverse of practically the same performance was gone through. The Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*), for as such he was identified by this time, then alighted in a cherry tree, just above a female that we had previously failed to notice, and completed the performance by going through his more familiar courting antics. I wonder if others have seen the Flicker do this.— C. W. LEISTER, *McGraw Hall, Ithaca, N. Y.*

Two Recent Records of the Horned Lark in Western New York.— Owing, perhaps, to the paucity of published records, local ornithologists have for some time regarded the Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris alpestris*) as rare, or at least uncommon, in this general locality. In treating of the subspecies in his 'Birds of New York' (1914), Eaton remarks that for fifteen years he has failed to secure any specimens on the shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario. He adds, however, that the bird unquestionably does occur there in the winter or during the migration time in the late fall. These facts have led me to place on record two recent dates of its occurrence near the village of Hamburg, about fifteen miles south of the city of Buffalo.