

by two other ornithologists of greater experience than mine, including the Secretary of the Game Protective League, who lives in an island in the lake. I took two pictures at that time, one showing three, the other four of the Turkey Buzzards¹.—JAMES E. HORNING M. D., *Luscar, Alberta.*

The Gyrfalcon in Wisconsin.—The Milwaukee Public Museum recently obtained a fine specimen of the Gyrfalcon, *Falco rusticolus gyrfalco* from Mr. E. D. Ochsner of Prairie du Sac, Wis. The bird was shot by a farmer in Sauk County on October 22, 1916. Unfortunately it was not sexed but measurements indicate that it is a male. The specimen which has been mounted, is No. 13261 of the Museum's collection.

This form has not been previously recorded from Wisconsin, although the closely allied Gray Gyrfalcon has been taken once (Snyder, W. E., *Auk*, Vol. 22, 1905, p. 413).—H. L. STODDARD, *Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wis.*

What is *Buteo rufescens* Salvin and Godman?—In *The Auk* for January, 1922 (page 107) Mr. Ludlow Griscom asks the above question, and probably others have been more or less curious to know what the alleged species really is.

Although I have never seen the type, nor any other specimen labeled with that name, I have never had the least doubt that the specimens so called by Messrs. Salvin and Godman represent merely more richly colored examples of *Buteo borealis calurus*; that is to say, examples that are more or less intermediate between the lighter colored phase and the melanistic phase, and the name had been synonymized by me with the common western form of *B. borealis* in my manuscript of Part IX, 'Birds of North and Middle America.' Specimens agreeing with the characters assigned to *B. rufescens* occur in practically every collection containing a large series of specimens from the general range ascribed to the supposed new species. As Mr. Griscom suggests, however, it may include examples of *B. borealis alascensis*.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Olney, Illinois.*

Richardson's Owl (*Cryptoglaux funerea richardsoni*) In Cohasset, Mass.—It is a custom at our house to have breakfast before daylight on January mornings, near a row of windows outside of which, level with the sills, is a food shelf for birds. At one end of the shelf is a group of ever-green shrubbery; on the opposite end of the shelf stands an ordinary wire bird cage, which we use in our trapping and banding operations. Over the cage end of the shelf is a roof, with a clearance of nine inches between the top of the cage and the roof. Every morning we stock the shelf with a variety of bird food, and scatter more on the ground below and in front of the shelf. The birds begin to come before it is fully daylight, hence our habit is to reduce the electric light within the room to a minimum, and to keep it as far removed from the windows as possible.

¹ Photographs unmistakable.—Ed.