

height of about two hundred feet, then spread its wings and sailed towards the west. During its upward flight it came straight over my head about fifty feet up, and I had no trouble to determine, that the object it carried was a quite large bull snake.—J. K. JENSEN, *U. S. Indian School, Santa Fe, N. M.*

Golden Eagle at Houston, Texas.—On Feb. 28, 1926, a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) was shot by H. F. Lindley, at Katy, Texas. It has been mounted, being a well plumaged specimen.—ROBT. B. LAWRENCE, *Houston, Tex.*

The Validity of *Nisuooides morelii* Pollen.—*Nisuooides morelii* Pollen was described from a series of eight birds, brought alive, from Tamatave, western Madagascar to Reunion in 1866. The species was made the type of a distinct genus on a single character, that of the commissure being straight from the end-hook to the gape, whereas in *Astur* or *Accipiter* the commissure is always festooned. The description of plumage of *N. morelii* and of *Astur* (or *Accipiter*) *francesii* Smith are to all intent identical, and in size the two are the same.

Apparently no specimens strictly referable to *Nisuooides* have since been taken, and all descriptions appearing in literature seem to have been re-copied from the original or taken from Grandidier's plate and figures. Recent collections made in the region whence *Nisuooides* came, contain only birds that must be placed with *Astur francesii*.

In the Museum of Comparative Zoology there is a series of seven skins (one adult male, six more or less immature examples of both sexes) from southwestern Madagascar, that exhibits nearly every possible variation, from a bill with a very conspicuous festoon to one in which the commissure is nearly straight; in some birds the festoon is not equally developed on both sides of the bill and in one the cutting edge of the maxilla is so nearly a straight line, that we should have to call this specimen *Nisuooides*, if we thought there was such a genus.

We believe that there is no such bird as *Nisuooides*, and that the type of this supposed genus is nothing more than an example of *Astur francesii* with the commissure presenting a straight line, possibly from extreme individual variation, possibly because the type had been kept alive in captivity and may have worn down its bill on the cage bars or on food unsuited to it. It must be borne in mind that the cutting edge of the maxilla of *A. francesii* and allied species, when festooned, is very thin and papery, and gives one the impression that it would soon wear away if brought in contact with hard objects.

Having satisfied ourselves that *Nisuooides* is not a valid genus, we wrote to Dr. Hartert and asked him for his opinion based on the specimens at Tring. He replied that he not only heartily agreed with us, but that he, wholly independently, had reached the same conclusion himself.

We therefore sink *Nisuooides morelii* Pollen in the synonymy of *Astur*

rancestii (Smith).—OUTRAM BANGS AND JAMES L. PETERS, *Museum Com p. Zool., Cambridge, Mass.*

The Barn Owl (*Tyto pratincola*) in Michigan.—My first observation of this species was about six miles east of Vicksburg, Michigan, on June 6, 1925, when two were seen about dusk. I was at this place every day until June 27, and saw one on thirteen different evenings, including the date when I first saw it. I was informed by a farmer that he had seen a pair of this species nearly every day about the barn and believed that they were nesting somewhere about the farm buildings, but I have not yet found out for sure if they did. So far as I could determine, no harm was done to poultry by the Owls.—OSCAR MCKINLEY BRYENS, 1312 Third St., St. Joseph County, Michigan.

Short-eared Owl Breeding in Illinois.—On May 10, 1925, in company with several members of the Chicago Ornithological Society I found a nest and six eggs of the Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*) in the swamp at Beach, Lake Co., Illinois. Returning on the 16th, two young were found to be hatched and the remaining eggs on the point of hatching. As available publications show but one record of this species breeding in Illinois (Kennicott, Cat. Animals Observed in Cook Co., Ill.; Trans. Ill. State Agr. Soc., I, 1885), this may be the second.—PIERCE BRODROB, *Evanston, Illinois.*

The Name of the East African White-browed Coucal.—In 'Novitates Zoologicae,' xxix, 1922, p. 50, Dr. van Someren separated the East African *Centropus superciliosus* from the typical birds of Southern Arabia under the name *Centropus superciliosus intermedius*. Mr. Bangs has called my attention to the fact that the name *intermedius* was used by Hume in 1873 (Stray Feathers, i, p. 454) for a Coucal which he called at the time *Centrocoocyx intermedius*. This was later shown to be a race of *Centropus sinensis*,—the *Centropus sinensis intermedius* (Hume) of Tenasserim, Siam, and Burma. Consequently the name *intermedius* cannot be used for any other *Centropus* and van Someren's name is therefore preoccupied. In its place I propose the name *Centropus superciliosus furvus* nom. nov.—HERBERT FRIEDMANN, *Museum Comp. Zool., Cambridge, Mass.*

Arkansas Flycatcher Nesting at Melville, Sask.—In 1921 a pair of Arkansas Kingbirds made their nest on a telephone pole in the lane behind my house. I had never seen any of these birds in this part of Saskatchewan and I mentioned the matter to Mr. Mitchell, provincial naturalist, and he stated that he had not heard of any quite so far north although he had a record of them a very little farther south in another part of the province. These birds nested in the same place for four years, but in 1925 failed to appear. Ever since they arrived in 1921 I have kept a sharp lookout for Arkansas Kingbirds in this district and I have never been able to locate another pair in spite of the fact that I do considerable driving