

krideri, he considers a dimorphic color form of the eastern Red-tail, limited to the western portion of its range and apparently merging into the western Red-tail. *Buteo b. alascensis* of Alaska he dismisses as identical with the eastern race.

Three colored plates of birds and tail feathers illustrate the paper very satisfactorily and there is a full bibliography.

Mr. Taverner has certainly thrown much light upon a puzzling problem and we see no reason why his general conclusions are not sound.¹ There may, however, be some question as to the advisability of upsetting the current name of the Western Red-tail since Audubon's type specimen of *harlani* is not extant and there seems to be some doubt as to just what it was. It is not a good plan to replace a certainty with an uncertainty in nomenclature. This is purely a matter of nomenclature and in no way affects Mr. Taverner's disposition of the birds usually called *harlani*. There may also be some question as to relegating *krideri* to synonymy since it is not an albino and has a fairly definite range and consequent claims to recognition as a subspecies.—W. S.

Strecker on the Birds of McLennan Co., Texas.—Mr. Strecker presents an annotated list² of 254 species and subspecies of birds observed in McLennan Co., Texas, with especial reference to the city of Waco and its public park, Cameron Park, now maintained as a bird sanctuary. The author remembers this tract of land as it was thirty years ago, when essentially a wilderness, and his comparison of the relative abundance of birds at that time and in the present forms one of the valuable features of the list.

The paper constitutes another up-to-date county list, which will be of much assistance to local bird students, as well as a valuable work of reference.—W. S.

Strecker on Birds and Snake Skins.—Following up his publication in 'The Auk' 1926, p. 501, on the use of snake sloughs as nesting material Mr. Strecker publishes³ more details and speculations upon this problem. He finds about ten distinct species of birds which habitually use cast off snake skins in the construction of their nests and others which do so occasionally.

His conclusions are that birds do not fear snake skins nor do their enemies. In other words they do not associate the cast skin with the live

¹ A Study of *Buteo borealis*, the Red-tailed Hawk, and its Varieties in Canada. By P. A. Taverner. Museum Bulletin No. 48. Victoria Memorial Museum Biol. Series No. 13, Nov. 11, 1927. pp. 1-21. Price 25 cts.

² Notes on the Ornithology of McLennan County, Texas. By John K. Strecker, Curator, Baylor University Museum. Special Bulletin Baylor University Museum, Number One. November Nineteen Twenty-seven. (Waco, Texas.) pp. 1-65.

³ Birds and Snake-Skins. By John K. Strecker. Contributions from Baylor University Museum Number Eleven. Waco, Texas, May 15, 1927. pp. 1-12.