

November 19, 1940, one male (G. Free). November 23, 1940, one male, November 24, 1940, two females and one male. November 25, 1940, two females (R. Giegler). December 5, 1940, one male (Currier).

All the males seen between November 15, 1940, and December 5, 1940, may have been the same bird.—JAMES H. HOLZMAN AND HASKELL B. CURRY, *Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pennsylvania.*

**European Widgeon at the Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge.**—Because of the limited number of records of the European Widgeon in the interior country it seems appropriate to report that on July 29, 1941, a male European Widgeon, *Mareca penelope*, was observed on Unit 96, Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge, near St. Mary's Crossing, North Dakota.

The bird was in a mixed flock of Mallards, Pintails, and Baldpates, and was observed through 9-power glasses at about one hundred yards. The differences between the European Widgeon and the American Baldpates were readily recognizable. The bird was seen both on the water and in flight.—CLARENCE COTTAM, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.*

**Pintail in the Dominican Republic.**—In our account of the birds of Haiti and the Dominican Republic (Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., no. 155: 100, 1931) B. H. Swales and I recorded the Pintail (*Dafila acuta tzitzihoa*) as of uncertain status. Mr. Hugh A. Johnston of Monte Cristi, under date of July 10, 1941, writes me that last winter migratory ducks were present in his vicinity by thousands, passing over his house in flocks that at times literally stretched across the entire sky. His observation was that the majority appeared to be the Pintail. Birds that a friend and he shot were mainly of that species, though including a few Blue-winged Teal (*Querquedula discors*). As Mr. Johnston is familiar with ducks the record may be accepted to validate the occurrence of this species on the island. The numbers in which it was present were a matter of some surprise.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C.*

**Bartram's Painted Vulture.**—Francis Harper has discussed references to this bird at length (Auk, 53 (4): 381–392, Oct. 1936) but failed to note one that suggests a better solution of the puzzle than that which he adopted. In the light of the evidence he collected, Harper proposed that *Sarcoramphus papa* L. be recognized as formerly having occurred in Florida. The authority to whom I refer is R. P. Lesson who in his 'Traité d'Ornithologie' (1831: 26) says, "The bird described by Bartram under the name of *Vultur sacra*, seems to be a variety, tending to albinism, of this species." The tendency of birds to form Floridian subspecies being amply evident, why is it not the best course to regard the extinct Painted Vulture as a subspecies of the King Vulture and call it *Sarcoramphus papa sacra*, the authority for which should be Lesson *ex* Bartram, who under the rules will be the first strictly binomial author to give the name currency?—W. L. McATEE, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.*

**Fuertes's Red-tailed Hawk in Northern New Mexico.**—On August 15, 1940, an adult female Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) was collected by the writer six miles east of Colfax, Colfax County, New Mexico. The specimen is now no. 9284 of the Fuertes Memorial Bird Collection at Cornell University, and has been identified by Dr. George M. Sutton as *Buteo jamaicensis fuertesi* Sutton and Van Tyne (Occas. Papers Mus. Zool., Univ. of Michigan, no. 321, September, 1935).

As the type locality of this well-marked race is in Brewster County, Texas, the occurrence of a specimen so far north in New Mexico may well occasion surprise. The bird collected was not in breeding condition, however, and its presence so far from the previously known range of *fuertesi* may have been due to some chance wandering. No additional Red-tails were taken in this area, but others seen did not impress the writer as being so lightly marked below as *fuertesi*, a character which the authors of the race state to be clearly discernible in the field. Several very dark birds seen appeared to be *B. j. calurus*, which is probably the breeding form of the region. At least they could hardly have been *fuertesi* since that Texas race is apparently not dichromatic. Not knowing of any previous records of Fuertes's Red-tailed Hawk in New Mexico, the writer deemed it advisable to publish this note, regardless of what significance the record may have as far as the breeding range is concerned.—ROBERT M. MENGEL, *Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.*

**Eagles of western Illinois.**—There has been no recent publication of data dealing with the winter migration of eagles to western Illinois. Scattering notations on eagles taken from my Nature calendar, may be of some interest.

Three-quarters of a century ago huge slaughter houses were located on the Mississippi River near Keokuk. Prime meats were packed and lard was rendered while the carcasses, fats, and meat scraps were thrown into the river. Open water at the base of the Des Moines rapids contributed to the ease of securing fish which together with the presence of this offal from the slaughter house, attracted large numbers of eagles. These occasionally carried on their depredations even on inland farms, wandering as far south as Clarksville, Missouri. The following clipping from a Warsaw, Illinois, paper published about 1912 gives interesting local color to the status of the eagles years ago and then:

"The presence of a pair of eagles above the river recalls the days of half a century ago when the locality where these birds are now seen was simply alive with eagles which were attracted by the offal discharged into the river from the pork houses at Keokuk.

"The 'Plough Boy' was operating between Keokuk and Warsaw at that period and the big birds would come so close to the craft in retrieving the floating food that they became the object of curiosity to the passengers who marvelled at the strength exhibited in lifting from the water, loads of fat and decomposed meats, apparently larger than [the birds] themselves."

Time has passed. The slaughter houses are gone. The great Keokuk Dam crosses the river. Open water acts as a constant attraction to gulls, ducks, and waterbirds throughout the winter. Most noticeable of the visitors are the eagles, which continue to make their yearly trips to the ancient site of winter plenty.

This flock of Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) usually numbering from five to ten, hunts south of the dam and roosts in the big sycamore trees which line the river bank between Hamilton and Warsaw. They have an abundance of food in the form of carp and hickory shad which are killed during the ice period of the winter. The big birds are usually preyed upon by embryo hunters, correspondence-school taxidermists, and likewise by an older man who kills them in order to sell the feathers to a western firm which finds a ready market for the plumage among Indian tribes. The slaughter has totaled from two to four birds yearly for a number of years. Yet the eagles persist. From Keokuk, the eagles wander south along the river for seventy-five to a hundred miles.