

(Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., 55: 236, 1926) listed the name but merely said, "We have no specimens." Peters (Check-List Birds of the World, 1: 248, 1931) stated that this name was probably based on examples of *Spizaëtus ornatus*.

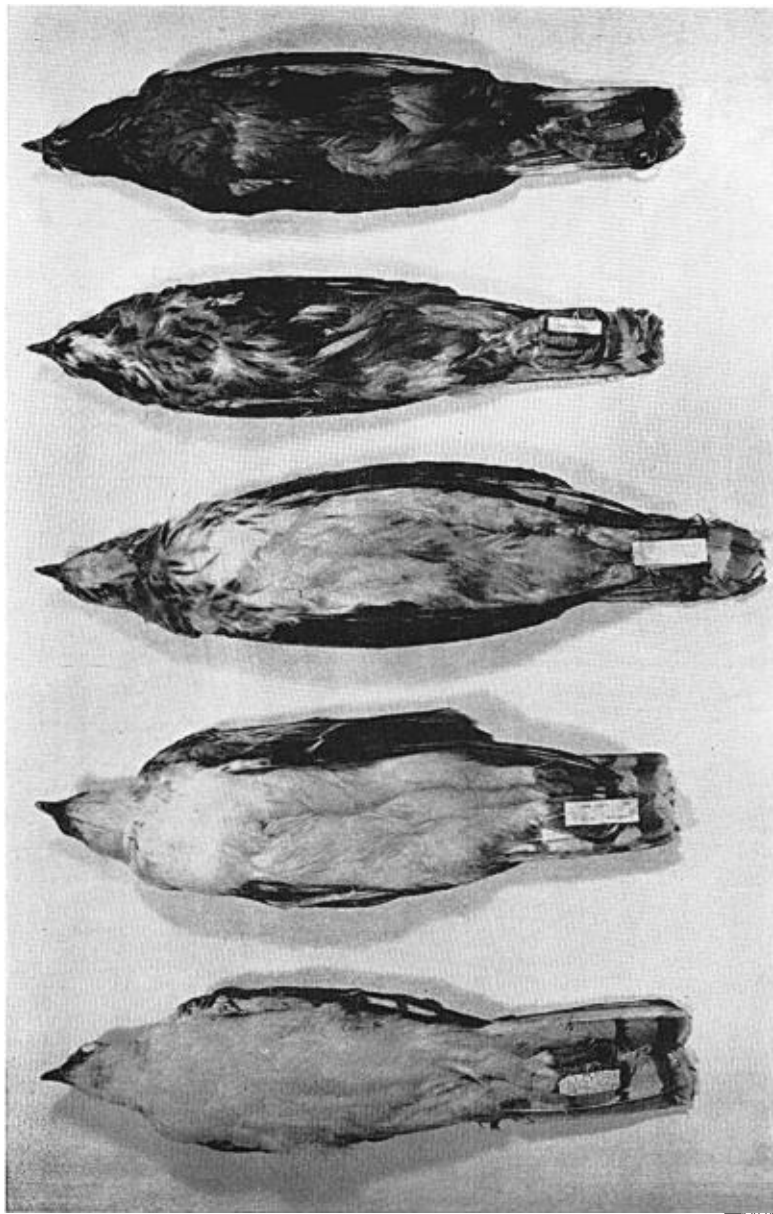
In 1946, Conover (Fieldiana-Zoology, 31: 44-45) described an eagle in the Chicago Museum of Natural History that he believed to be the third known specimen of *devillei*. Three years later in the 'Catalogue of Birds of the Americas' (pt. 1, no. 4: 213-214) Hellmayr and Conover again referred to this specimen when listing *devillei* as a good species. In a footnote, Hellmayr suggested that the white-breasted plumage found in the Chicago specimen and in one of Dubois' birds represents the immature stage and that Dubois' other specimen, which is streaked with chestnut and blotched with black above, is the adult, this being the reverse of what Dubois had thought.

These recent references recalled to mind a pencilled note in the handwriting of the late Ernst Hartert, which I came across some years ago among the eagles in the Rothschild Collection. It reads, "*Spizaëtus devillei* Dubois, Ecuador = *isidori* juv.!" Further investigation leaves no doubt in my mind that Hartert (who may have seen the types of *devillei*) was perfectly correct in stating that *devillei* is a synonym of *Oroaëtus isidori* (Des Murs, 1845). Mr. Conover's generosity in lending the Chicago specimen was of great help in reaching this conclusion. The plumage changes of *Isidor's* Crested Eagle are approximately as follows (Pl. 7):

Immatures are whitish below and on the head, with brownish shaft streaks on the flanks and throat. The crest feathers are black-tipped; the back feathers grayish brown with whitish margins; the rectrices marbled grayish with three black bars. Adults are deep brownish black above and chestnut with black shaft streaks below; the tail bars are much broader than in the immatures. The first adult feathers to appear are scattered over the back. A little later the chestnut adult feathers appear here and there on the underparts (Plate 7, center). In one bird with the molt into adult plumage about three-fourths completed, the first adult tail feather with broad black terminal band was just coming in, as pointed out to me by Dr. J. T. Zimmer. The Chicago Museum specimen, at left in the plate, is in almost complete immature plumage, but has the first one or two black adult feathers on the back.

There are several reasons for the long uncertainty as to the correct allocation of *Spizaëtus devillei*. Hartert apparently never published his information, and specimens of *isidori* are rare enough in collections to cause confusion in associating immatures and adults. Kirke Swann, however, correctly described the immature plumage but did not mention the name *devillei* (Monog. Birds Prey, 2: 90, 1932-1945). Ridgway (Smith. Misc. Colls., 72 (4): 1, 1920) placed *isidori* in the monotypic genus *Oroaëtus*, and in most lists still another genus, *Spizastur*, is placed between it and *Spizaëtus*. Actually *isidori*, though a heavier footed, more powerful bird, is rather closely related to *Spizaëtus ornatus*, the type of the genus, as shown by the similarity in their immature plumages and by the striking difference between immatures and adults of both forms. The generic relationship of the numerous New and Old World eagles related to *Spizaëtus* is, however, a problem that should not be tackled piecemeal. For the time being it is sufficient to point out that *devillei* is a synonym of *isidori*.—D. AMADON, *American Museum of Natural History, New York*.

Ring-billed Gulls Feeding on Fruit of Cabbage Palmetto.—In 'The Auk' (58: 579, 1941) is a note by Mr. Maurice Broun about Ring-billed and Herring Gulls feeding upon the fruit of the cabbage palmetto. I would like to add my corroboration to this report. I have observed this feeding habit in the Ring-billed Gulls, *Larus delawarensis*, not infrequently along the Indian River, and on Merritt



PLUMAGE SEQUENCES IN *Orocæëtus isidori*. VENTRAL VIEW. IMMATURE AT LEFT, ADULT AT RIGHT, TRANSITIONAL STAGES BETWEEN. THE SIZE VARIATION IS SEXUAL.

Island where I live. I have not only seen these gulls flutter about the pendant fruit stalks of the cabbage palmetto, snatching the berries and flying away, but I have seen large numbers of the drupes on small docks along the river front where resting gulls gather in numbers. On one occasion I saw a Ring-billed Gull discharge one of these drupes, with a dark, watery excrement. Others have reported this practice of these gulls; it is not an uncommon habit in this area at least.—SAMUEL A. HARPER, *Two Rivers Grove, Cocoa, Florida.*

Ring-billed Gulls and Cabbage Palmettos.—During various trips to Florida I have observed Mockingbirds, *Mimus polyglottos*, Boat-tailed Grackles, *Cassidix mexicanus*, Florida Jays, *Aphelocoma coerulescens*, Blue Jays, *Cyanocitta cristata*, and Red-wings, *Agelaius phoeniceus*, eating the berries of the cabbage palmetto. On several occasions I had suspected the Ring-billed Gulls, *Larus delawarensis*, of eating these berries, but I could never be positive. In January, 1948, I had excellent opportunities to watch several flocks of Ring-billed Gulls gathering this fruit. The birds were gracefully gliding under the heads of the cabbage palms and snatching berries on the wing. I saw this spectacular performance on several occasions at three different localities; the cabbage palms apparently are a regular source of food supply for the Ring-billed Gulls.—ALLAN D. CRUICKSHANK, *Rye, New York.*

Record of Zenaida Dove on Florida Mainland.—On November 13, 1948, with Charles M. Brookfield and John O'Reilly, I observed a Zenaida Dove, *Zenaida aurita zenaida*, in a dense hammock between Coot Bay and Flamingo on the mainland of South Florida. We were first attracted by the rather long white stripe in the wings. The bird settled on the lower limb of a gumbo limbo tree and was studied from a distance of 15 to 20 feet, exhibiting the tameness attributed to the species by Audubon (*Orn. Biog.*, 2: 354-359, 1834). The various identifying characters were readily noted: the shortish, almost square-tipped tail with its terminal band of pearl gray; the white stripe along the hind edge of the wings; the diagonal black mark or stripe on the side of the neck. The legs and feet appeared heavier than in other species of pigeons. We watched the bird for fully ten minutes. No certain occurrence in Florida has been recorded since 1832, and there is no previous report from the Florida mainland, Pangburn's record (1918) having been withdrawn.

In 1824, Titian R. Peale visited Florida and collected the Zenaida Dove, presumably from the Keys although his itinerary is not known. This constituted the first report of the species for this country (Howell, *Florida Bird Life*, 1932: 9). In the spring of 1832, Audubon found the Zenaida Dove nesting near Indian Key and also noted it on a small key between the Tortugas and Key West. He wrote that it arrived in the Keys about April 15, the male birds first and the females a week later. Eggs were laid about May 1 and both sexes, with their young of the year, returned to the West Indies by October. It is possible that the individual observed by our party in mid-November was a straggler brought in by one of the hurricanes of the previous September and October, which swept through the region where this bird was seen. However, it should be noted that another West Indian species, the White-crowned Pigeon, *Columba leucocephala*, which still nests in the Keys, usually has migrated towards Cuba and the West Indies by September or early October, but a small group winters on the mainland near Cape Sable, as mentioned by Howell. I have observed them there a number of times in the months of January and February.—ROBERT P. ALLEN, *Tavernier, Florida.*

Groove-billed Ani in Florida.—On December 19, 1948, a Groove-billed Ani, *Crotophaga sulcirostris*, was seen at Cedar Key, Levy County, Florida, by the writer