THE CONDOR

40

Buteo coterminus (Wetmore, op. cit.: 497-499) differs from B. fluviaticus in having a more massive inner trochlea and in larger size.

Buteo ales (Wetmore, Ann. Carnegie Mus., 16, 1926:403) from the Miocene is smaller (16.2 mm. across condyles) than B. fluviaticus. The illustration accompanying the description of ales shows no indication of an intermuscular line on the outer face of the external trochlea as in fluviaticus.

Buteo antecursor (Wetmore, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 75, 1933:298-300) from the Upper Oligocene is somewhat smaller (18.1 mm. across condyles) than *fluviaticus* and differs among other things in its convex rather than straight lateral contour of the outer metatarsal. However, *antecursor* seems to have many characters which parallel those of *fluviaticus*. The metatarsal facet is relatively long and extends far up the shaft. The second trochlea is also more massive than in later forms such as B. ales. In these respects the Oligocene species resemble each other. This suggests a line of development from the older to the more recent types.

Buteo dananus (Marsh, Amer. Jour. Sci., ser. 3, 2, 1871:125) was described from a tibiotarsus. It is smaller than B. melanoleucus.

In the same quarry with the type of *fluviaticus* was a well preserved proximal third of a femur representing a hawk of the same size as the type. This femur is exactly the same size as the corresponding element in *B. melanoleucus*. It is therefore referred to *B. fluviaticus* but since it is lacking in diagnostic characters, it is not included in the description. The following list serves to review the relative position in the geologic time scale of the several species of *Buteo* from the Tertiary of North America.

Lower Pliocene	Buteo coterminus
Upper Miocene	B. contortus, B. typhoius,
Lower Miocene	B. ales
Upper Oligocene	B. antecursor
Middle Oligocene	B. grangeri, B. fluviaticus

-ALDEN H. MILLER and CHARLES G. SIBLEY, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, December 5, 1941.

Black Swift in Orange County, California.—About five o'clock on August 10, 1941, and again at about the same time on the following day, I saw a single Black Swift (*Nephoecetes niger*) flying high in a southeasterly direction over a bluff at Corona del Mar, Orange County, California. This is a sight record but I feel very sure of my identification.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, September 4, 1941*.

Whooping Cranes in Texas in Summer.—The Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*) is a regular winter resident of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Aransas and Refugio counties, Texas. A few also spend the winter in salt marshes and along bay shores of other sections of these counties and in Calhoun County. Extreme dates of occurrence on the refuge, up to this spring, are October 21 (1938 and 1939) and May 6 (1939).

It was therefore a surprise to note that one of our wintering family groups was still present on the refuge's east shore flats near Mullet Bay, Aransas County, on May 16, 1941. This group consisted of two adults with their single young, apparently hatched in 1940. The birds have been observed frequently since then in the same general area and are still here (October 10). Courtship of the adults was noted by Everett Beaty and the writer on May 16 and as late as May 23. No evidence of nesting was observed.

This family formed part of a group of 26 birds (21 adults and 5 immatures) which spent the winter of 1940-1941 on the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. It is possible that some of these were birds which would normally remain in Louisiana in winter. Mr. John J. Lynch (in litt., September 10, 1941) states: "Our Louisiana cranes were badly scattered by high water last fall [1940]. Flood water stood three and four feet deep over most of their range from August until late October, and never did drop down to normal until this summer. Concensus of opinion is that most of the birds 'went down the Texas Coast.'"

The only other definite summer record for the State, which I can find, is also for the Gulf coast of southern Texas. Bent (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 135, 1926:229) quotes Mr. Richard M. Kleberg as stating that there were, in 1919, 16 cranes on the King Ranch, in Kleberg County, which grew from a flock of 3 which bred there. Bent makes the comment that there is no positive evidence of their