

West Chester is about forty miles southwest of George School. The two occurrences would seem to indicate that a flock of these birds had been blown inland from the ocean and that these and perhaps others had become exhausted.—WITMER STONE, *Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia*.

The Status of the Genus *Archibuteo*, Brehm.—Since proposing (The Auk, XXXVII, No. 2, April, 1919, p. 282) to change the name of the genus *Archibuteo* Brehm to *Triorchis* Kaup, the writer has had occasion to investigate the generic status of this group. The two Rough-legged Hawks, *Falco lagopus* Brünnich and *Falco ferrugineus* Lichtenstein, have for a long time been generically segregated from the species of *Buteo* because they have the tarsi completely feathered in front and on the sides. Dr. Hartert has recently (Hand-List Brit. Birds, 1912, p. 115; Vögel paläarkt. Fauna, Heft IX [Band II, Heft 3], October, 1914, pp. 1114, 1128-1131), advocated the elimination of *Archibuteo* as a genus because of the intermediate character of some species of *Buteo*. The results of our own study may be worthy of brief notice in print, as they seem, much to our surprise, completely to justify Dr. Hartert's position. The common Rough-legged Hawk of Europe, *Archibuteo lagopus lagopus* (Brünnich), and its North American subspecies, *Archibuteo lagopus sanctijohannis* (Gmelin) exhibit the extreme extent of feathering on the tarsus, which in these birds extends over the base of the toes. This condition, compared with that seen in *Falco buteo* Linnaeus, the type of the genus *Buteo* Lacépède, would seem to indicate that *Archibuteo* is an excellent genus. Examination of other species of both groups shows, however, that in this character there is a complete chain of intermediates connecting *Archibuteo lagopus* with *Buteo buteo*, through *Buteo augur*, *Buteo desertorum*, *Buteo leucocephalus*, and *Buteo ferox*. In fact, *Archibuteo ferrugineus* is also somewhat intermediate in this respect, since the feathering on its tarsus does not cover the base of the toes, nor in some specimens even the lower end of the tarsus. Some examples of *Buteo ferox* have the tarsus feathered in front, even to the base of the toes; and *Buteo leucocephalus* has it covered for at least the upper two-thirds. Failing other characters to separate *Archibuteo lagopus* from *Buteo* it must be included in that group. Contrasted with *Archibuteo lagopus lagopus* and *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*, the American species *Archibuteo ferrugineus* looks very different, with its broad bill and rather long tarsus; and Mr. C. J. Maynard (Birds Eastern North Amer., pt. 40, 1896, p. 691) has generically separated it under the name *Brewsteria*, because of these differences, its much heavier sterno-trachialis muscle, and the lack of glandular ridges on the proventriculus. The broad bill and rather long tarsi are shared almost completely by *Buteo leucocephalus* and *Buteo ferox*; the glandular ridges on the proventriculus in *Archibuteo lagopus* are, Mr. A. Wetmore thinks, merely adventitious wrinkles; while the heavier sterno-trachialis muscle as compared with *Archibuteo lagopus* is doubtless merely a difference due to the larger size of *Archibuteo ferrugi-*

neus. We do not see, therefore, how *Archibuteo ferrugineus* can be separable, even subgenerically, from *Archibuteo lagopus*; or *Archibuteo lagopus* and *Archibuteo ferrugineus* generically from *Buteo*.

The two species of *Archibuteo* seem, however, to constitute an excellent case for the employment of a subgenus, since they show structural characters connected by intermediates, which is our idea of a subgeneric group. Certainly we can not consistently longer consider the Rough-legged Hawks generically distinct. Their names hereafter should, therefore, be

Buteo lagopus lagopus (Brünnich).

Buteo lagopus sanctijohannis (Gmelin).

Buteo ferrugineus (Lichtenstein).

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Golden Eagle at East Moriches, N. Y.—A Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) visited East Moriches, Long Island, N. Y., on February 7, 1919. He raided a flock of hens and took one to a telegraph pole where he ate it. On February 10, what I believe to have been the same bird was seen by Mr. Henry D. Terry. I have no report of a previous visit here of this rare bird within the past fifty years. From memory and associated events it was just about fifty years ago that Jonathan Robinson shot one in Manorville, four miles north of this village and my father bought it and sent it to Fulton Market, New York City, for sale.

The Bald Eagle is a resident here and a pair nested for many years on an old dead pine tree about a mile from the village.—HORACE M. RAYNOR, *East Moriches, N. Y.*

Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker at Southampton, Mass.—The article in the 'General Notes' of the January number of 'The Auk' on the Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) prompts me to record one observed recently near Southampton, Mass.

Together with a companion on Lincoln's birthday, I went to find this rare Woodpecker which had been reported in November and December as having always been found in a rather extensive patch of white pine that had been burned over the preceding spring. We succeeded in locating him after a fifteen mile automobile drive over dusty roads that usually at this time of year are buried under a foot or two of snow. This winter is remarkable also for an unusual number of Hairy Woodpeckers, of which we noticed nearly a dozen, with half as many Downies. My companion at length located the Arctic by the tapping sound characteristic of Woodpeckers. But the beat was not as regular as that of the above mentioned species and somewhat slower.

The bird allowed us to approach to the very tree in which he was at work, so that an excellent observation was obtained. The sides we noted instead of being pure white, as in the adult spring plumage, were a dull gray color with small black bars. Whether this is an immature marking or winter