

## Order ACCIPITRES.

In the 'Nomenclator Avium Neotropicalium' this order is divided into two families, Falconidæ and Cathartidæ, including the genus *Pandion* in the former group. The position of this genus has always been a difficulty with systematists. Dr. Sharpe, in 1874, went so far as to place *Pandion* in a separate "suborder" Pandiones, as equivalent to the whole of his "Falcones" (=Accipitres of this work) and "Striges." Mr. Ridgway has a group Pandiones as a section of his subfamily Buteoninæ. Dr. Coues divides his order Raptores into three suborders, viz. Cathartidæ, Accipitres, and Striges; and the Accipitres he separates into Falconidæ and Pandionidæ, an arrangement we think the best, and is the one adopted here, except that having placed the Striges in a separate order we assign to the Accipitres the same rank, and with them we place the Cathartidæ.

### Fam. PANDIONIDÆ.

The reversible outer toe and the absence of an aftershaft to the feathers render *Pandion*, the only member of this family, distinct from the rest of the Accipitres.

### PANDION.

*Pandion*, Savigny, Syst. Ois. Egypte, p. 9 (1810); Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. i. p. 448;  
Coues, Key N. Am. Birds, ed. 2, pp. 498, 556.

Besides the characters given above, *Pandion* has close and firm plumage, the thighs closely feathered, and none of the feathers elongated as in most Falconidæ; the distal portion of the tarsi and the toes are naked, the feet large and strong, the claws very large and equal in length, not grooved beneath, but compressed, the middle claw grooved on its inner face; the bill has no notch or tooth at the end of the tomia, but the mandible is strongly hooked; the nostrils are oval, without tubercle, in the edge of the cere. The relative position of the distal ends of the coracoid, scapula, and furcula is the same as in the Buteonine section of the Falconidæ, the scapular process of the coracoid not reaching to the end of the furcula. This fact led Mr. Ridgway to place *Pandion* in his Buteoninæ.

With the possible exception of the small *Pandion leucocephalus* of Australia and New Guinea, there is only one species of this genus, the range of which is given below.

#### ✓ 1. *Pandion haliaetus*.

*Falco haliaetus*, Linn. Syst. Nat. i. p. 129<sup>1</sup>.

*Pandion haliaetus*, Less. Man. d'Orn. i. p. 86<sup>2</sup>; Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. i. p. 449<sup>3</sup>; Salv. Ibis, 1889, p. 374<sup>4</sup>.