

arrangement of the Falconidæ (1875); but by incorporating some of Mr. Ridgway's conclusions, this concordance is made closer.

We have, following Dr. Coues, already removed *Pandion* from this family. We now further modify our plan by using the curious character of the relative positions of the distal ends of the coracoid, scapular, and clavicle, first indicated by Huxley and subsequently brought into prominence by Mr. Ridgway, to separate *Micrastur* from the Accipitrinæ, and place it in a separate subfamily next *Herpetotheres*, and near the Falconinæ and the Polyborinæ. We also merge the Buteoninæ in the Aquilinæ, as Dr. Coues has done.

We thus have one group (A) consisting of four subfamilies, viz. Circinæ, Accipitrinæ, Aquilinæ, and Milvinæ, in which the scapular process of the coracoid does not meet the end of the clavicle, and another (B) also containing four subfamilies, viz. Herpetotherinæ, Micrasturinæ, Falconinæ, and Polyborinæ, in which the scapular process of the coracoid meets the end of the clavicle.

These eight subfamilies are represented in our region by thirty-three genera and about sixty-four species, a very large proportion of the genera and species of the Falconidæ of the world. Of the genera eight are widely spread and extend beyond the limits of America, seven are found in North as well as South America, and eighteen belong only to Mexico and Central America and the southern continent. The Falconidæ, therefore, of our region, as regards their genera, are much more nearly allied to those of South America than they are to those of North America; and as regards the species this relationship is more clearly shown, a large proportion of them being identical in the two regions.

#### Group A.

##### Subfam. CIRCINÆ.

This subfamily includes the Harriers (*Circus*) only, a compact group of birds with marked characteristics, of which the most evident is the disc or ruff which surrounds the face, as in the Owls. The members of the genus *Micrastur* also have this feature to a less extent, but they, again, are separated by the arrangement of the ends of the coracoid, scapular, and clavicle mentioned above.

#### CIRCUS.

*Circus*, Lacépède, Mém. de l'Inst. iii. p. 506 (1806); Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. i. p. 50.

A genus of very wide distribution, containing about fifteen species. These are spread over the temperate and tropical portions of all the larger land-areas of the world. In North America *Circus hudsonius* is the only species, and this, as shown below, ranges in winter as far south as the Isthmus of Panama. In South America two species occur.

The sexes in *Circus hudsonius* are very distinct in coloration, the male being a