

but it is apparently not uncommon in winter in Texas, on the north side of the Rio Grande. That it occurs in Northern and Central Mexico can hardly be doubted; but our evidence that it does so rests partly on three specimens in the British Museum which have been in the collection for many years, and partly on the statement of Mr. Ridgway that the bird occurs in Mexico, though we have no precise information on the subject. Capt. Bendire<sup>6</sup>, however, speaks of it as “wintering abundantly in Western Texas, many passing south into Mexico.”

The species breeds from the Plains of the Saskatchewan south to Utah, Colorado, and Kansas. It is a fine and handsome bird, building a large nest of sticks, lined with turf, in a tree or, in sparsely-wooded districts, on the ground. In some instances, where sticks are difficult to procure, the bird has been known to utilize the bones from a buffalo's skeleton for the construction of its nest. The eggs are three or four in number, and are somewhat richly mottled with rufous markings.

## BUTEO.

*Buteo*, Cuvier, Leç. Anat. Comp. i. tab. (1800), et auctt.; Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. i. p. 164.

*Tachytiorchis*, Kaup, Classif. Säug. u. Vög. p. 123; Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. i. p. 161.

*Buteola*, Bonaparte, Compt. Rend. xli. p. 651; Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. i. p. 201.

*Antenor*, Ridgway (nec Montf.) in Baird, Brewer, & Ridgw. Hist. N. Amer. Birds, iii. p. 248.

*Parabuteo*, Ridgway, t. c. p. 248, note.

*Erythrocnema*, Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. i. p. 84.

The genus *Buteo* extends throughout a large portion of the world, some thirty species being distributed over Europe, Asia, Africa, and Madagascar, as well as North and South America. Some dozen species occur within our limits, of which *B. albicaudatus*, *B. zonocercus*, *B. brachyurus*, and *B. albifrons* belong to South-American rather than to Northern forms, the others being of Northern type and visiting Mexico and Central America only in the winter season.

Dr. Sharpe divides the genus *Buteo*, as here understood, into four genera, viz. *Erythrocnema*, *Tachytiorchis*, *Buteo*, and *Buteola*. *Tachytiorchis* has a rather shorter tail than the others, but does not materially differ; *Buteola*, in his arrangement, is placed in the same section as *Archibuteo*, and is said to differ from true *Buteo* by the presence of a tubercle in the nasal opening. We have failed to find this character, the nostrils of *Buteola* being just like those of *Buteo*. Lastly, *Buteo harrisi*, which Dr. Sharpe places in his subfamily Accipitrinæ, is considered by Dr. Coues a subgenus of *Buteo*, which we think its more appropriate place.

Dr. Coues's divisions of the genus seem fairly natural, and are based mainly on the number of primaries which are emarginate on the inner webs. They are as follows:—