

*B. albicaudatus* exhibits many changes of plumage, all apparently due to age. The adult is grey above and pure white beneath up to the base of the bill, but examples having the upper portion of the throat grey are not uncommon. Mingled with these are slightly younger birds which still have the dark throat and the whole belly, flanks, and tibiæ banded with narrow dusky bars; this phase is preceded by a plumage in which the under surface is pale fawn-colour, with large subterminal spots on each feather. The tail is shorter than in any other species of *Buteo* found in Central America; it varies from an ashy grey with two cross-bars, to white with a broad subterminal bar and a few narrow transverse bands on the basal portion. All these stages of plumage are represented in our series from the Lower Rio Grande and various parts of Mexico, Central and South America. Professor Allen has separated the Rio Grande bird as *Buteo albicaudatus sennetti*, a race of the true *B. albicaudatus* of South Brazil, but, with the series before us, we find no distinctive characters for definition. A set of skins from British Guiana are matched, so far as we can see, by a similar set from the north, the birds in both districts undergoing the same changes of plumage.

*Buteo albicaudatus* is a resident in Southern Texas and the valley of the lower Rio Grande, and breeds abundantly in this portion of the Gulf States of North America<sup>5</sup>. Though not yet recorded from the valley of Mexico itself, it is, according to Sumichrast<sup>8</sup>, widely distributed in that country. In Guatemala we found it on the southern slope of the cordillera, but there, as in Costa Rica, it is rare. Arcé sent us specimens from Calovevora and Chitra in the State of Panama, thence its range extends to Colombia, Venezuela, and Guiana, through Central and Eastern Brazil to Argentina and Paraguay.

Shy and wary in habit, it breeds abundantly in Texas, the nest being placed in low bushes. The eggs, which are white with a few small blotches of light brown or drab<sup>5</sup>, are generally two, rarely three, in number. We found *B. albicaudatus* feeding on beetles and locusts in Guatemala<sup>21</sup>, but it is also said to eat snakes, frogs, rabbits, and quails<sup>6</sup>.

Section C. *Majores*. *Alæ remigibus externis quatuor in pogonio interno excisis.*

### 3. *Buteo abbreviatus*.

*Buteo albonotatus*, Gray, List Accip. p. 17 (1844) (descr. nulla)<sup>1</sup>; Scl. P. Z. S. 1860, p. 253<sup>2</sup>; v. Frantz. J. f. Orn. 1869, p. 368<sup>3</sup>; Salv. Ibis, 1873, p. 428<sup>4</sup>; Lawr. Mem. Bost. Soc. N. H. ii. p. 302<sup>5</sup>.

*Buteo abbreviatus*, Cab. in Schomb. Guiana, iii. p. 739<sup>6</sup>; Salv. Cat. Strickl. Coll. p. 486<sup>7</sup>; Ferrari-Perez, Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. ix. p. 167<sup>8</sup>; Herrera, La Nat. (2) i. pp. 176, 320<sup>9</sup>; Bendire, Life Hist. N. Amer. Birds, p. 228, t. 7. fig. 6<sup>10</sup>; A. O. U. Check-l. N. Amer. Birds, p. 132<sup>11</sup>; Fisher, Bull. U. S. Dep. Agr. no. 3, p. 71<sup>12</sup>.

*Tachytiorchis abbreviatus*, Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. i. p. 163<sup>13</sup>.