

the type specimen with a series of *B. calurus*. Capt. Bendire agrees with this determination.

*Buteo costaricensis* would appear to be the small form of Red-tailed Buzzard resident throughout Central America. It has a white chest-patch, instead of a rufous one, and the upper surface is uniformly coloured, the head being of the same dark chocolate-brown as the back, though occasionally rufous or grey-headed examples are seen. The throat is white, with a few narrow dark stripes, and the abdominal patch is rufous, without many dark spots; the thighs are decidedly rufous, especially in the more southern examples.

It must be stated, however, that intermediate specimens of all the above-named races are to be found in the collection of the British Museum, and that a series, when laid out for examination, shows nearly every possible link of intergradation between all the above-mentioned forms.

### 5. *Buteo socorroensis*.

*Buteo borealis*, var. *montanus* (nec Nutt.), Grayson, Proc. Bost. Soc. N. H. xiv. p. 301<sup>1</sup>.

*Buteo borealis*, var. *costaricensis* (nec Ridgw.), Lawr. Mem. Bost. Soc. N. H. ii. p. 302<sup>2</sup>.

*Buteo borealis socorroensis*, Ridgw. Pr. U. S. Nat. Mus. iii. pp. 194, 220<sup>3</sup>; Towns. op. cit. xiii. p. 135<sup>4</sup>.

*Buteo socorroensis*, Gurney, List Diurn. Birds of Prey, p. 66<sup>5</sup>.

♂ *ad.* *B. caluro* similis, sed pedibus valde crassioribus; gastræo magis concolore, pallide cinnamomeo; abdomine et corporis lateribus minus distincte fusco notatis; tibiis saturate vinascenti-cinnamomeis, vinaceo-fulvo vix transfasciatis. Long. tot. 20·0, alæ 15·25, caudæ 8·0, culm. 1·0, tarsi 3·20. (Descr. maris e MSS. R. Ridgway.)

♀ *ad.* mari similis. Long. tot. 22·50, alæ 16·50, caudæ 8·75, culm. 1·18, tarsi 3·65 (*teste Ridgway*).

*Hab.* SOCORRO ISLAND (*Grayson*<sup>1 2 3</sup>, *Townsend*<sup>4</sup>).

We have not seen an example of the Red-tailed Buzzard of Socorro, and in answer to our enquiries as to its distinctive characters, Prof. Ridgway has very kindly sent us the following note:—

“*Adults (sexes alike in coloration)*. Similar to *B. calurus*, but with much larger and stouter feet; underparts more uniformly pale cinnamomeous—cinnamon-rufous (see my ‘Nomenclature of Colours’) or vinaceous-cinnamon—than in most nearly similar examples of *B. b. calurus*, with dusky markings on the sides and abdomen much smaller and fewer; thighs deep vinaceous-cinnamon, indistinctly barred with paler (vinaceous-buff); longer scapulars blotched with vinaceous-cinnamon. ♂. Length (skin) 20 inches; wing 15·25; tail 8·00; culmen 1·00; tarsus 3·20; middle toe 1·62. ♀. Length (skin) 22·50 inches; wing 16·50; tail 8·75; culmen 1·18; tarsus 3·65; middle toe 1·90.”

The late Colonel Grayson, who first discovered this Buzzard on Socorro, says that it is a common resident on the island, breeding there and subsisting on land-crabs. The bird's claws become much blunted from their frequent contact with the shells of these crustacea<sup>1</sup>.