

male, with the shield-like patch on the fore-neck of a dark ashy brown. Between this phase of plumage and the not uncommon one of a sooty-brown colour with rufous thighs, and thence to nearly black individuals, every kind of gradation is visible in a series. Swainson's Buzzard takes the place in the New World of the Common Buzzard (*Buteo vulgaris*) of the Old World, and appears to be of similar habits; it is, however, distinguished from the European bird and from most of its American congeners by having only three, instead of four, of the outer primaries excised on the inner web.

In the Eastern United States *Buteo swainsoni* is a rare bird, but in the Western and Central States and on the Pacific side of N. America it breeds regularly and, in some localities, in great numbers. In Manitoba and Western Canada it is also an abundant summer resident, and its northern breeding-range extends to the Yukon River in Alaska and the southern parts of the Mackenzie and Anderson rivers. Southward it is found nesting in S.E. Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and even in Southern California⁷.

The only record we have at present of its breeding within our limits is from Mr. W. Lloyd, who informed Capt. Bendire that he found it nesting on the prairies west of Chihuahua in March. In September it was obtained at Fronteras in N.E. Sonora by Mr. Robinette during the Lumholz Expedition, but it is chiefly on migration that Swainson's Buzzard is met with in the Neotropical Region. It has been recorded by Dugès⁴ from Guanajuato and Guadalajara and from the Valley of Mexico by Herrera. We have received from Mr. Ferrari-Perez a specimen from San Baltazar in Puebla.

We obtained a single example at Dueñas in Guatemala, but the bird is evidently rare in this country as well as in Costa Rica, where it has been met with at San José by Carmiol¹⁸ and Cherrie⁸ and at Tucurriqui by E. Arcé. In South America it is found in many districts during the northern winter, and arrives in Argentina and Northern Patagonia in large flocks. In similar vast numbers the species returns to its breeding-ground in North America, and Mr. F. Stephens says that he has seen hundreds together.

Captain Bendire remarks that it lives in such perfect harmony with its smaller neighbours that some birds, such as *Tyrannus verticalis* and *Icterus bullocki*, build in close vicinity to, or actually in, its nest; this is rather roughly built, at heights varying from three to sixty feet above the ground in the prairies, and is sometimes placed on the ground. Its food consists chiefly of small rodents, as well as grasshoppers and other insects.

The eggs are oval, greenish white, with distinct or obsolete spots of brown or grey⁷.

✓ 10. *Buteo latissimus*.

Falco latissimus, Wils. Am. Orn. vi. p. 92, t. 54. f. 1 (correction)¹.

Astur latissimus, Jard. ed. Wils. Am. Orn. ii. p. 294².

Buteo latissimus, Sharpe, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. i. p. 193³; Boucard, P. Z. S. 1878, p. 44⁴;

Sumichrast, La Nat. v. p. 236⁵; Zeledon, An. Mus. Nac. Costa Rica, 1887, p. 126⁶;