

subtus nigris; remigibus intus albis, griseo marmoratis vel fasciatis. Long. tota circa 15·8, alæ 11·7, caudæ 6·2, tarsi 2·25. (Descr. exempl. ex Alvarado, Mexico. Mus. nostr.)

Juv. Fuliginoso-niger; cauda fasciis nigris 8 notata: subtus fasciis celatis albis vel ochraceis variegatus; facie laterali nigricante, regione parotica nigro lineata. (Descr. maris juv. ex Miami, Florida. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. NORTH AMERICA, Florida ^{5 8 22}.—MEXICO (*Boucard* ²⁷), Tamaulipas (*Mus. Norv.* ^{17 18}), Alvarado (*Ferrari-Perez*), Jalapa (*de Oca* ^{21 24}), Tehuantepec city ²⁶, Tonalá ¹⁴ (*Sumichrast*), Cozumel Island (*U. S. S. 'Albatross'* ^{3 16}); GUATEMALA ^{11 20} (*Skinner* ⁹), Coban (*O. S.* ²⁰); NICARAGUA, Escondido River (*Richmond* ⁶); COSTA RICA, San José (*Cherrie* ⁴), Irazu (*Underwood*), San Antonio (*v. Frantzius*), La Palma (*Zeledon, v. Frantzius*); PANAMA, Calobre, Calovevora ² (*Arcé*).—COLOMBIA ¹³; VENEZUELA ²²; AMAZONS ¹²; BRAZIL ²⁵; PERU ¹⁵; BOLIVIA.

The black form of this Buzzard (*B. fuliginosus*) was originally described by Dr. Sclater ¹⁷ from a specimen from Tamaulipas in the Norwich Museum. In the 'Catalogue of Birds' (vol. i. p. 185) the species was referred to *B. obsoletus* (i. e., *B. swainsoni* of this work), but this was a mistake. Since the latter work was published *B. fuliginosus* has been considered by some ornithologists to be merely a melanistic phase of *B. brachyurus*, whilst others treat the two forms as distinct. The latter view has recently been taken by Professor Ridgway ('Manual of North American Birds,' 2nd edit. pp. 236, 237). Both forms occur in Florida, and throughout Central America to Colombia, but in other portions of South America only the white-breasted bird has been found, and the black-breasted one is either very rare or has escaped observation.

The question as to whether *Buteo brachyurus* and *B. fuliginosus* are different species, or whether they are phases of a single dimorphic form, must, in face of the evidence produced by Mr. W. E. D. Scott, who has found the two supposed species breeding together in Florida ²², now be considered as settled. In one instance a pair of birds was shot by him, and the female proved to be the white-breasted form (*B. brachyurus*), while the male was the black *B. fuliginosus*. Subsequent observations in the same State have tended to confirm this sexual distinction of colour in the male and female; but we are inclined to believe that these differences in the colour of the plumage may occasionally be reversed in the two sexes. The bird which has hitherto been called *B. fuliginosus* must, in future, be considered as the melanistic form of *B. brachyurus*. In the specimens examined by us we have not found the slightest sign of any intergradation, although, in the winter habitat of the species in South America, the two forms have not as yet been found in the same locality.

In a specimen of the dark form (*B. fuliginosus*) from Mexico, which may not be a very old bird, the plumage is not so black as in some others in our collection. One from Calobre, in Panama, has a grey shade over the black plumage, and has the under tail-coverts broadly banded with white, while the under surface of the quills is almost entirely black, with only some ovate white marks towards the base of the primaries