

smaller twigs and a few leaves. Fourteen eggs in my collection, from different parts of New England, exhibit but slight variations; they are of a bluish-white color, and covered at the larger end with spots and blotches of chocolate-brown: in some specimens these blotches are confluent, making a ring near the large end;<sup>1</sup> others are covered nearly over their entire surface with these markings. The form of the egg is nearly spherical; the length varying from 1.50 inch to 1.23 inch, and the breadth from 1.24 inch to 1.06 inch. Average dimensions about 1.40 inch by 1.20 inch. I have found the eggs as early as the 10th of May; but usually they are not laid before the 20th, in the latitude of Massachusetts. The same nest is occupied by the parent birds for several years, and the female is a persistent layer. A case came to my knowledge in the spring of 1864, when the nest was robbed three times: fourteen eggs were removed; and, if the female had not been killed when the last eggs were taken, she would probably have laid another litter, as there were several found in her nearly formed. Both sexes, as with nearly all the other birds of prey, incubate

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*Sub-Family BUTEONINÆ. — The Buzzard-Hawks.*

General form heavy; flight vigorous and long continued, but not so rapid as in the preceding sub-families. Subsist mainly on small quadrupeds and reptiles.

BUTEO, CUVIER.

*Buteo*, CUVIER, *Regne Animal*, I. 323 (1817).

Bill short, wide at base; edges of upper mandible lobed; nostrils large, ovate; wings long, wide, fourth and fifth quills usually longest; tail moderate, rather wide; tarsi moderate, robust, with transverse scales before and behind, laterally with small circular and hexagonal scales; toes moderate, or rather short; claws strong. Contains about thirty species, inhabiting all countries.

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<sup>1</sup> The specimen, fig. 3, plate I., is marked with a ring of confluent blotches at the smaller end, a peculiarity rarely met with.

