

toward the base with transverse series of rectangular scales; claws long, stout, arched, moderately compressed, flat beneath, tapering to a very acute point; the inner edge of that of the middle toe sharp.

Plumage rather compact, the feathers broadly ovate and rounded; the space between the bill and the eye covered with small bristle-pointed feathers; the feathers on the outer side of the leg not much elongated. Wings long, broad, much rounded; the first quill four inches shorter than the fourth, which is longest, the fifth longer than the third, and the seventh longer than the second; the first four having the inner web cut out; secondaries broad and rounded. Tail long, broad, slightly rounded, the lateral feathers three-quarters of an inch shorter than the longest.

Bill light blue at the base, black toward the end; cere and feet yellow; claws black. The general colour of the plumage is deep chocolate-brown; the quills darker; the upper and lower wing-coverts and the feathers of the legs brownish-red, the wing-coverts with a central dusky streak, which is enlarged on those toward the edge beyond the carpal joint, and on the secondary coverts, so as to leave only the margins red. The feathers of the rump are faintly margined with red, and the upper tail-coverts are barred and tipped with white. The tail is brownish-black, with two broad bands of white, the one at the base, the other terminal.

Length to end of tail 24 inches; bill along the ridge $1\frac{10}{12}$; cere $\frac{7}{12}$; wing from flexure $15\frac{1}{4}$; tail $10\frac{1}{4}$; tarsus $3\frac{7}{12}$; hind toe $1\frac{2}{12}$, its claw $1\frac{5}{12}$; second toe $1\frac{4}{12}$, its claw $1\frac{3}{12}$; third toe 2, its claw $\frac{1}{12}$; fourth toe $1\frac{5}{12}$, its claw $\frac{9}{12}$.

COMMON BUZZARD.

+*BUTEO VULGARIS*, *Willoughby*.

PLATE VI.—FEMALE.

The specimen from which the figure before you was taken, was shot by Mr. TOWNSEND on a rock near the Columbia River, on which it had its nest. Unfortunately, however, he has not supplied me with any account of this species, and the only notice respecting its habits that I have seen, is that in the *Fauna Boreali-Americana*, by Dr. RICHARDSON:—"The Common Buzzard arriving in the Fur Countries in the middle of April very soon afterwards begins to build its nest; and, having reared its young, departs about the end of September. It haunts the low alluvial points of land which stretch out under the high banks of a river; and may be observed sitting for a long



Common Buzzard.

time motionless on the bough of a tree, watching patiently for some small quadruped, bird, or reptile to pass within its reach. As soon as it espies its prey, it glides silently into the air, and, sweeping easily and rapidly down, seizes it in its claws. When disturbed, it makes a short circuit, and soon settles on another perch. It builds its nest on a tree, of short sticks, lining it sparingly with deer's hair. The eggs, from three to five in number, are equal in size to those of the domestic fowl, and have a greenish-white colour, with a few large dark brown blotches at the thick end. It was seen by the Expedition as far north as the fifty-seventh parallel of latitude, and it most probably has a still higher range."

BUTEO VULGARIS, COMMON BUZZARD, Rich. & Sw. F. Bor. Amer., vol. ii. p. 47.

COMMON BUZZARD, *Falco buteo*, Aud. Orn. Biog., vol. iv. p. 108.

Female.

Bill short, strong, as broad as deep at the base, compressed toward the end. Upper mandible cerate, its dorsal outline declinate and a little convex as far as the cere, then decurved, the sides rapidly sloping, towards the end nearly perpendicular but convex, the edge with a slight festoon, the tip trigonal, acute; lower mandible with the angle short and rounded, the dorsal line convex and ascending, the edges sharp, arched, at the end deflected, the tip rounded. Nostrils irregularly obovate, in the fore part of the cere, nearer the ridge than the margin.

Head large, roundish, flattened above; neck rather short; body full. Feet short, robust; tarsi roundish, anteriorly feathered half-way down, anteriorly scutellate, laterally reticulate, posteriorly also scutellate; the lower part all round covered with series of small scales, as are the toes for half their length, the terminal portion being scutellate; they are strong, of moderate length, the hind toe stouter, with four large scutella, the inner with four, the middle with about eight, and connected at the base by a web with the outer, which has four large scutella. Claws long, arched, compressed, tapering to a point, flat beneath.

Plumage ordinary, full, rather blended beneath. Space between the bill and eye covered with bristly feathers; eyelids with soft downy feathers, and ciliate; the superciliary ridge prominent. Feathers of the head and neck ovato-oblong, of the back and breast ovate and rounded, of the sides and outer part of the leg elongated, of the rest of the leg short. Wings long, broad, the fourth quill longest, the third next, the fifth very little shorter, the second longer than the fifth, the first and seventh about equal; first four abruptly cut out on the inner web; secondaries broad and rounded. Tail rather long, broad, slightly rounded.

Bill light blue at the base, with the margins yellowish, the tip black; the cere yellow. Iris hazel. Feet yellow; claws black, at the base bluish. The general colour of the upper parts is chocolate-brown. The quills are of the general colour externally, but the primaries are black toward the tip; a great part of the inner web, with the shaft, white, and barred with brownish-black, the bars more extended on the secondaries. The tail is marked with about ten dusky bars on a reddish-brown ground, tinged with grey, the last dark bar broader, the tips paler. The eyelids are whitish, as is the throat, which is longitudinally streaked with dusky. The rest of the lower parts are yellowish or brownish-white, barred with brown. The lower wing-coverts are white, barred or spotted with dusky; the white of the inner webs of the primaries forms a conspicuous patch, contrasted with the greyish-black of their terminal portion.

Length to end of tail 23 inches; wing from flexure 17; tail $10\frac{1}{2}$; bill along the ridge $1\frac{8}{12}$, along the edge of lower mandible $1\frac{7}{12}$; tarsus $3\frac{5}{12}$; hind toe 1, its claw $1\frac{1}{12}$; middle toe $1\frac{10}{12}$, its claws $1\frac{1}{12}$.

Another specimen in my possession, procured by Mr. TOWNSEND on the plains of Snake River, has the upper parts brown, streaked and spotted with reddish-white; the upper tail-coverts white, barred with dusky, the lower parts as above described. The colours however vary, and in some the upper parts are deep brown, the lower reddish or brownish-white, barred with reddish-brown.

When compared with European specimens, mine have the bill somewhat stronger; but in all other respects, including the scutella and scales of the feet and toes, and the structure of the wings and tail, the parts are similar.

THE RED-TAILED BUZZARD.

+*BUTEO BOREALIS*, *Gmel.*

PLATE VII.—MALE AND FEMALE.

The Red-tailed Hawk (Buzzard) is a constant resident in the United States, in every part of which it is found. It performs partial migrations, during severe winters, from the Northern Districts towards the Southern. In the latter, however, it is at all times more abundant, and I shall endeavour to present you with a full account of its habits, as observed there.



Common Buzzard.



Audubon, John James. 1840. "Common Buzzard, *Buteo vulgaris*, Willoughby. [Pl. 6]." *The birds of America : from drawings made in the United States and their territories* 1, 30–32. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.319119>.

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