

Family FALCONIDÆ. Vultures, Falcons, Hawks, Eagles, etc.

Subfamily Accipitrinæ. Kites, Buzzards, Hawks, Goshawks, Eagles, etc.

Subfamily Falconinæ. Falcons [including the Caracaras].

Subfamily Pandioninæ. Ospreys.

It will be seen that this scheme of 1885 is essentially that of Ridgway (1873-76), the only difference being that *Pandion* was given a somewhat more independent position, easily explained by the fact that the whole, as shown above, was to some extent a measure of compromise. The Accipitrinæ are otherwise identical with Ridgway's Buteoninæ containing, as they do, the Old World vultures, the eagles, kites, buzzards, etc.

I must, therefore, claim for the American ornithologists the honor of having appreciated and followed Ridgway's classification of the Falconiformes for eighteen years.

The Old World ornithologists, as a whole, it is true, have been lagging behind. Yet, there are noteworthy exceptions. Thus, I would call attention to a very important paper by Mr. P. Suschkin in the *Zoologischer Anzeiger* for 1899 ('Beitraege zur Classification der Tagraubvoegel mit Zugrundelegung der osteologischen Merkmale,' *Zool. Anz.*, 1899, pp. 500-518), in which he, three years before Pycraft's work, commends and adopts all the essential features of Ridgway's scheme which his own investigations on forty-four genera corroborate, elaborate and partly correct.

LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM,  
March 28, 1903.

#### HOTEL HEADQUARTERS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: While traveling homeward after the recent meeting of the scientific association I spent some time, which would otherwise have been hanging heavily on my hands, in studying out a few of the relations indicated by the registered list of attendance. This list included 972 names, a number somewhat less than the total registration, but the difference is not great enough to have any important effect on results.

The question for solution was this: "What is the meaning of 'hotel headquarters'?"

It has been the custom for a dozen years past to designate some hotel as headquarters. This hotel has been conveniently near to the places of meeting of the sections, and in it the council of the association held their meetings. A majority of the council usually secured their rooms at headquarters, and it was generally understood that the social advantage implied in taking up one's temporary abode with a majority of the most prominent members present was more than an offset for the expense of accommodation at a fashionable hotel. This item of expense is one that is unfortunately more important to most followers of pure science than to the captains of industry who reap the benefits of applied science and 'legislative favors.' The hotels have, until recently, been disposed to make such reduction in rates as to constitute an inducement to make hotel headquarters the real headquarters of the association.

To the rule just named there have been a few conspicuous exceptions, as at the Buffalo meeting in 1896 and the Pittsburgh meeting in 1902. Every hotel proprietor has a perfect right to offer or refuse reduction of rates; but it is at least desirable that such hotel be chosen as to make it reasonably probable that a large percentage of members will find it advantageous to select the same gathering-place.

Of the 972 persons whose names were included in the Washington list under examination 352 were residents of Washington, and hence a trifle over 36 per cent. of those registered are naturally excluded from the body of temporary residents at hotels. The attendance at the largest five hotels is given in the following table, where the 'hotel headquarters' leads the list.

Arlington	55, or	5.7	per cent.
Ebbitt	134, "	13.8	" "
New Willard	27, "	2.8	" "
Raleigh	24, "	2.5	" "
Oxford	21, "	2.2	" "
		261	27.0

This shows that more than two thirds of those present at the Washington meeting avoided the larger hotels. But what is most noticeable is that there were only about two fifths as many registered at headquarters as at another hotel. The meetings of the council were not held there, and not more than half a dozen members of the council made it their stopping place. More than one person who had gone to headquarters in the hope of meeting friends soon went elsewhere. The announcement in the preliminary circular that the Arlington would be headquarters proved to be unfortunate. At Pittsburgh last summer local conditions caused 165 out of the 431 persons present, or about 38 per cent., to meet the high charges imposed at headquarters.

This statement of facts must not be interpreted as an implied criticism upon the management of the local committee at Washington. The permanent secretary has been so systematic, energetic and courteous, that it would be hard to find any reasonable ground for criticism. All that is intended is to call attention to the fact that, under the conditions that appear now to exist, the custom of specifying any place as headquarters seems one 'more honored in the breach than the observance.'

W. LE CONTE STEVENS.

LEXINGTON, VA.,  
January 14, 1903.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In your issue of March 13 W. J. Beal makes a plea for the publication in full of all the papers read at the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in the *Proceedings* of the Association. I must enter a protest against this. I should be entirely unwilling to have my recent paper on 'Abelian Functions and their Relation to the Specific Gravity of Sirius' buried in the *Proceedings*, where it would never meet the gaze of most of my astro-mathematical friends. Nor do I care to wade through dozens of pages about the 'Stereo-isomerism of Azonium Derivatives,' and the 'Ecology of the Dominican Thelo-

poraceæ' in order to find a few pages of interest to me on skew helicoids.

No, the *Proceedings* should contain merely the titles of the papers read, with a reference to where the original is to be published; a brief abstract of every paper should appear in SCIENCE; but the papers in full should be published only in the special journals where they belong and where they will meet the eyes of those, and those alone, who are particularly interested in them. Of course there are some papers read in the sections which are of more than technical interest. For such the columns of SCIENCE are the fitting place, for here they will reach the eye of every member of the association. X.

#### SHORTER ARTICLES.

##### ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS OF THE JAPANESE SHARK, MITSUKURINA.

IN a recent number of the *Japan Daily Advertiser* (Yokohama, March 4, 1903, page 5) there is a notice, and it deserves record in SCIENCE, of the capture of additional specimens of the deep water shark, *Mitsukurina*.

Students of fishes will recall that in 1898 Dean Mitsukuri, on the occasion of his visit to Washington as a delegate to the International Fur Seal Conference, brought with him a shark which caused considerable comment. This specimen had been taken in deep water off the Bay of Tokyo; then it came into the hands of Mr. Alan Owston, a resident naturalist of Yokohama, and by him it had been presented to the Imperial University of Tokyo. A detailed account of this new shark soon appeared in the *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences*, Ser. 3 Zoology, Vol. I., pp. 199-204, 1898, and it was here described by President Jordan as *Mitsukurina owstoni*, and regarded as the type of a distinct family of lamoid sharks. The most prominent features of the new form were the elongated and spatulate snout, the great extent of the ventral lobe of the tail and a general looseness of make-up, notably in its protractile and expansible jaws. The form was evidently from deep water, and structurally it seemed to be a close ally of *Odontaspis*, so close, indeed, that we are still in doubt whether