Rice Birds Take Free Rides Apparently for the Pure Fun of the Thing.

Size and strength are popularly asoclated with victory, especially among the lower animals, but in many cases this is far from being the case. particularly in the bird world. Among Gro the rice flats of the Carolinas, there abound at some seasons tiny rice birds, birds so small that it takes two dozen for a good meal, even though bones and all are euten.

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The great buzzard is found circling over the flats at all times. He dreads the time for the rice bird to come, for he is then nearly pestered to death. It is a common sight to see one of these tiny creatures fly up to a buzzard, and, after dodging this way and that around the awkward bulk. finally alight well forward between the buzzard's wings on the back. Here the little passenger grabs a few feathers in his beak and holds on for grim life. After enjoying a ride for as long as he desires, the little fellow hops off and is gone.

The peculiar feature of the whole performance is, that apparently the only purpose the rice bird has in getting on the back of the buzzard is to take a free ride. It puzzles every one who chances to see the little play to Black find any other reason; yet the fact remains that it is a frequent occurrence, and the little birds seem to enby it hugely.

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