

flight procedure described below was observed once during October 1960, and on several occasions from 5 to 14 October 1961. In all there were 15 individual instances.

After sunset, increasing excitement was evident, with constant call notes and occasional snatches of song, as these sparrows worked progressively higher up the trees from ground level, gathering at the top of larger trees (approximately 25-meter elms). When it was almost dark, individuals would fly straight upwards from an exposed branch, with an almost explosive energy and to an estimated height of 10–20 meters above the trees and surrounding houses, circle round two or three times, and then fly off in a southerly direction.

This sudden perpendicular flight has so far been observed only in fall. It seems to be a totally different procedure to that followed during the spring migration of this species, when, on many occasions, the general excitement and foregathering in high trees, both from ground level and from all directions in the neighborhood, has been observed after sunset. The subsequent evening flight in a northerly direction has always been observed to start with many individuals simultaneously and continued by a steady stream of other sparrows, rather than by the flock as a whole, and always in normal flight.

I have also watched the same sudden upward flight on two occasions in October 1961 with Myrtle Warblers, *Dendroica coronata*.—ROSEMARY GAYMER, 88 Kendal Avenue, Toronto 4, Ontario.

A Mandibular Abnormality in the Wood Duck.—An unusual condition in the mandibular structure of a nesting wood duck (*Aix sponsa*) was observed during the 1961 survey of nesting boxes at Dead Creek Waterfowl Management Area, Addison, Vermont. The membranous tissue of the hen's lower mandible had been completely pierced. The opening, a narrow and elongated ellipse, allowed the tongue to pass through and protrude beneath the mandible. Exposure had sufficiently calloused and enlarged the tongue tip to prevent its withdrawal back into the oral cavity. Plant debris had accumulated under the loop formed by the immobile tongue. The bird otherwise appeared healthy and in good condition. A wooden matchstick was used to remove the debris and to relocate the tongue. The enlargement of the tongue tip, however, was of such magnitude to prevent the proper alignment of the mandibles following its relocation. The bird was then banded and returned to the nesting box. Ten days later the tongue had softened and was again functional. Also, the mandibles now closed in their normal fashion. Despite these handlings, the hen continued incubation and later successfully hatched her brood. I am unable to explain the origin of the deformity.—ERIC G. BOLEN, Vermont Fish and Game Service.

Aggressive Behavior of a Bald Eagle.—Reputable accounts of deliberate attacks by Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) against humans are infrequently encountered in the literature; for this reason, the following incident seems worthy of record. During the summer of 1960 the writer and colleagues were engaged in ecological investigations in the wilderness areas of the southern arms of Yellowstone Lake, in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming. On 15 June Park Ranger Naturalist Paul D. Sebesta attempted to photograph a Bald Eagle nest located at the extreme southern end of South Arm. The nesting tree, an Engelmann Spruce approximately 25 meters tall, was about 10 meters from the shoreline, with the nest partly concealed among dense branches near the top. While peering through the telephoto lens, Sebesta was suddenly aware of a hissing sound, followed by a brush against the right side of his