

one of the latter having been shot at Delavan Lake, extent seven feet two inches, weight nine pounds.

PASSENGER PIGEON, *Ectopistes migratorius*.—A fine single Passenger Pigeon shot on September 8, 1896.

AM. OSPREY, *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*.—Several Ospreys, quite a rare bird here, seen during the fall and summer—one in July and the remainder in September.

SNOWY OWL, *Nyctea nyctea*.—One Snowy Owl, so far this winter, seen on December 11.

REDPOLLS, *Acanthis linaria*.—Have appeared here this winter for the first time to my knowledge. The first were seen on November 24 and I thought them to be Goldfinches from their long drawn-out "me-e-e-e-e," but on catching a glimpse of one, I at once recognized it as *Acanthis linaria*. They have since become very abundant and are still here (January 12), but I have so far searched in vain for a red male. Their flight is exactly like that of the Goldfinch and they call repeatedly while on the wing. When very close to a party of them in the bushes, one can hear a repeated "chip-chip-chip-chip," with a rising and falling inflection, as if in conversation. This and the call are the only notes I have heard.

N. HOLLISTER, *Delavan, Wis.*

A NEW MEXICAN BIRD.—WESTERN NIGHTHAWK, *Chordeiles virginianus henryi*.—This bird is quite common in New Mexico, replacing the common Nighthawk. The cry and flight are the same, but the birds appear to sleep oftener on the ground. I have often started them up when out walking, long after the end of the breeding season. When flushed from their nests they would circle around once or twice and then alight within a few yards and wait anxiously until I walked away. The eggs were laid on the bare ground without even a sign of a depression to keep them from rolling away. How the birds ever found them after once leaving them is a wonder to me, as the places all looked alike and the eggs resembled the soil so in appearance that it was hard to distinguish them, even when they were pointed out. These birds did not seem to gather together as much as does our common eastern form while flying.

SYDNEY S. WILSON, *St. Joseph, Mo.*

Mr. Wilson also sends a clipping from a local paper which gives an account of a ferocious attack by a Bald Eagle upon a horse. The horse had been ridden into a field, and tied to a tree while its owner was hunting. Soon the eagle appeared and pounced upon the horse, which was unable to break away and free itself from its tormentor. "Holzhauser

ran to the assistance of the horse, and using his gun as a club, he knocked the eagle to the ground. It started to attack the man, but he fought it off, and finally the bird rose to the limb of a tree near by. From this point the hunter brot the eagle to the ground by a well directed shot." Mr Wilson saw the horse and vouches for the story. He says that the bird measured eight feet from tip to tip of wings.—EDITOR.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH, *Spinus tristis*.—At Overbrook, Pa., on the morning of Jan. 8, a male of this species was seen sitting on a fence. He flew away at my approach, and uttered the ordinary note. This is the first time I have seen this bird in winter, although it is common in summer.

RUSSELL GRAY, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

WESTERN SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER, *Ereunetes occidentalis*, IN N. J.—In looking over my series of less than a dozen skins of the Semi-palmated Sandpiper recently, I discovered an unquestionable specimen of the *Ereunetes occidentalis*. It was a female taken August 31st, '91, with several *E. pusillus*, from the meadows near Atlantic City, New Jersey. Stone, in his *Birds of New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania* gives it as a straggler, and Chapman, in *Birds of Eastern North America* as occasional on the Atlantic coast. Bailey (*Auk*, Vol. XII. p. 174) found it more abundant than the Semi-palmated in Cape May county, N. J., during the first two weeks in September, 1895, and his concluding remark "that it may not be as accidental as heretofore supposed" is apparently well founded. Eastern collectors would do well to scan their specimens labelled *E. pusillus* with care and record every occurrence of the western species on the Atlantic coast, so that it may be possible to determine whether the extension of its range is of common occurrence within recent years.

FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Pa.*

UNUSUAL ACTIONS OF SPARROWS.—Of the many who have interested themselves in the general traits and habits of any group of the higher classes of wild animals, there are few who have not found some peculiarity or individuality, transmitted or acquired, in an isolated example of some species or other. It is impossible to detect such so-called eccentricities unless the observer be familiar with the regular habits of the species, and even then it may prove to be the rule under different surroundings, when it is the exception in the locality in which the observations were made. I will relate two instances of marked departure from