

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