

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

the normal traits, neither of which have I seen duplicated in the eight years succeeding. Both the enactors belong to the Sparrow family. The first may be easily explained on the score of heredity; the second is not so easy, as the motive is not so evident, possibly owing to my lack of personal knowledge of the habits of the bird in its summer home.

On June 22, '88, I discovered an undersized nest of the Chipping Sparrow, six feet above the ground on a dead and exposed branch of a peach tree. The bird sitting on two small young, almost let me put my hand on her before she cast herself off and down upon the ground, there fluttering along in exactly the manner of a Vesper Sparrow when flushed from her young. She soon came back and rested on a branch quite near me. Some of our tree-nesting Thrushes will sometimes go through similar antics upon being startled from their nests, especially when they have newly hatched young. Does not this point toward strictly terrestrial proclivities of the parent stock? In all the cases I can recall, where the various species of a family nest indifferently on the ground or above it, the latter is unquestionably the advancement, either from the increase and variety of sites or the superior cunning and craft requisite to construct it.

The second incident occurred on October 4th of the same year. A White-throated Sparrow, skulking close up to a row of bean stalks, came out almost under my feet and ran for some distance in advance of me before flushing to a bush where it sat scolding me in so earnest a manner that I instinctively began search for its nest, which of course was not found. I repassed the same spot three or four times during the course of the afternoon and presumably the same bird repeated this performance every time. I cannot reconcile its presence and actions at this particular spot to a desire for either food or shelter.

FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Pa.*

NOTES FROM CINCINNATUS, N. Y. PILEATED WOODPECKER, *Crophloeus pileatus*. On September 30, a fine female Pileated Woodpecker was brought me, and on October 26 I secured a male bird. Ten years ago this bird was almost unknown in this section but is now a fairly common resident, known to breed here. I know of at least a dozen being killed in this vicinity in the last three years.

AMERICAN GOSHAWK, *Accipiter atricapillus*.—October 24, a female American Goshawk was brought me. As far as I am aware this is the first record of the occurrence of this species in this immediate vicinity. The bird was killed in Chenango county about two miles from the Cortland county line.