

it, as none of the party and none of the guides or other local men were able to identify the specimen.

It was brought back here along with other Geese and Ducks, and was included in a lot sent out in the country as material for a game dinner for the hunting party and their friends. I did not hear anything about a strange fowl having been killed until it had been picked and prepared for cooking, but as soon as my friend Bartholomew had told me of the taking of some kind of fowl unknown to the Currituck guides, and I had asked if it were possible to secure its head, or a leg or wing, he promptly jumped into his car and drove out to the Club where the dinner was to be, to see what he could save. He brought back the head and one wing and a foot, so identification was easy.

This is the second record of the White-fronted Goose in North Carolina, the other being that of a specimen in the flesh sent the State Museum by Captain T. J. Poyner in 1897, which was also taken on Currituck Sound, in January of that year.—H. H. BRIMLEY, *Raleigh, N. C.*

Behavior of Swans.—My scanty literature on the Swans fails to mention similar performances and possibly the one I observed a few years ago may be exceptional. One Sunday morning a man came to my house for information regarding the peculiar actions of a Swan. It appeared that a pair of tame Mute Swans from a private estate up the West Canada Creek had been spending some time in a cutoff part of the same creek just above here and known from its shape as "The Oxbow." This man reported having seen both the Swans alive at 5 P.M. the previous evening but on returning the following morning, one of them was apparently dead and its mate was slowly covering the body with mud and grass. I visited the scene twice Sunday afternoon and saw the big bird still at its sad work. The dead Swan lay on a mud bar extending out into the stream, and its white body was more than half covered with mud, roots and grass. The living bird was very tame and I was able to approach to within twenty-five feet of it. I was under the impression that some thoughtless person had shot the Swan. I would ask if this performance is characteristic of these birds.—CHARLES A. GIANINI, *Poland, N. Y.*

Curlew Sandpiper on Long Island, N. Y.—I collected a young female Curlew Sandpiper (*Erolia ferruginea*) at Mecox Bay, near Watermill, on September 7, 1923. I was occupied in observing a pair of Stilt Sandpipers when I heard the note of this bird, and subconsciously ticketed it as a "krieker" with a squeaky voice. It lit on the shore some distance away, and I thought no more of it. Soon it jumped, and flew about the inlet, zig-zagging erratically, and I listlessly watched it, without much attention. The bird suddenly swerved nearer, and I "came to life" with a start, realizing that it was no common creature of this locality, whatever else it might be. Nearby, it resembled in some way a sort of aberrant Dowitcher, the suggestion being due to the tint of rusty underneath, the comparatively

long bill, and the hint of white on the lower back. Of course it was smaller. In its manner of flight and in the possession of a white rump it looked a little like a White-rumped Sandpiper.

It flew far down the coast, leaving me in a most unpleasant frame of mind, but eventually returned, and flew close over my head, and I killed it. Unluckily, almost the whole charge of shot smashed into it, and it was sadly mangled, but quite recognizable. The skin was preserved after much nerve-racking work, and identified as the Curlew Sandpiper by Mr. W. Miller, Mr. Griscom, and Mr. Chapin, of the American Museum of Natural History. Since the days of Giraud but two specimens of this species have been taken on Long Island, the last in 1891, I believe.—WM. TOD HELMUTH, 3RD, *New York City*.

Curlew Sandpiper on Fishers Island, N. Y.—On December 19, 1923, I was on Fishers Island, N. Y., with Messrs. L. C. Sanford, Justus von Lengerke and Harry Ferguson and shot what I supposed to be a very late lingering White-rumped Sandpiper. On getting it home and comparing it, I found it did not tally with my skins at all nor with descriptions, the long legs and long decurved bill especially attracting my attention.

On further investigation it proves to be a Curlew Sandpiper (*Erolia ferruginea*) in typical winter plumage. It seems such a rare occurrence in the east as to merit record in 'The Auk.'—LOUIS A. FUERTES, *Ithaca, N. Y.*

Peculiar Behavior of the Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*).—The normal behavior of an animal is well defined within certain limits, i. e., an animal's activities are curtailed to a considerable extent as a result of the specialization of the structures involved. There are, however, instances where animals perform acts which involve a specialized structure and which seem to be contrary to its normal function. For example, the legs and feet of shore birds are adapted for wading but it is also possible for some of the group,—the Solitary Sandpiper, the Yellow-legs, etc.,—to perch.

On June 25, 1923, at Orient Bay, Lake Nipigon, Ontario, the writer observed a Spotted Sandpiper perching on a telegraph wire. The fact that the species was perching was not surprising but the size of the perch made the observation of interest. The bird was not in an erect position, being squatted, which probably made the feat less difficult. In this case the act was entirely voluntary and not an instance of unusual conduct due to the pressure of an emergency.

Activities for which an organism is not particularly adapted may be undertaken especially when the survival instincts are stressed.

On July 31, 1923, at the same locality as mentioned above, I forced a young, flightless Spotted Sandpiper to swim. After trying to dodge and run past me it was finally cornered on a gravel bar where it was forced to