

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