

yards from, our Piper Super Cub. In order to facilitate a count of mature bucks, the pilot dove the plane to a point about 100 yards from the side of the running herd and leveled off 25 feet above the ground. The eagle simultaneously duplicated this maneuver except that he leveled off 25 feet from the antelope, almost disappearing into the large dust cloud above them. The eagle was seen to disappear and reappear several times, apparently having no difficulty moving in and out of the herd, now running at full speed and almost in single file. On one occasion the eagle dropped back to hover above a large mature buck bringing up the rear. During the five minutes of observation the eagle was not seen to strike an antelope. When last noted, the bird was still in pursuit of the running herd.—ALLEN E. ANDERSON, *New Mexico Game and Fish Department, Santa Fe, New Mexico (Contribution from P-R Project W-75-R-1)*.

**Marsh Hawk Pursues Domestic Cat.**—On June 4, 1955, I was observing Short-eared Owls (*Asio flammeus*) and Marsh Hawks (*Circus cyaneus*) on a marsh in southwestern Waukesha County, Wisconsin. At about an hour after sunrise an adult male of the latter species was seen pursuing a common house cat through a field adjacent to the marsh.

The hawk flew several feet behind and about 10 feet above the cat which was running about as fast as possible towards the protective cover of a fencerow. The field through which the cat was running had a rather uniform cover depth of about 10 to 12 inches. During the chase the hawk dived three times to within one foot of the cat. It appeared to have no intention of actually striking it, however. When the cat entered the deeper cover along the fence the hawk hovered momentarily and then perched on a fence post about 10 feet from where the cat disappeared. It remained on the post for about 10 minutes before resuming its coursing over the fields. The cat was a medium-sized individual and was predominantly white but with some brown areas on the foreparts.

Although this was probably defensive behavior this same male Marsh Hawk consistently tolerated another male in its territory. This second male was mated to a female which was incubating about a third of a mile away, but no mate to the first bird was seen even after seven hours of observation during two successive mornings.—DANIEL D. BERGER, 510 E. MacArthur Road, Milwaukee 17, Wisconsin.

**Tree Sparrows (*Spizella arborea*) Feeding on the Common Reed.**—On December 26, 1954, while making some observations in Pelham Bay Park, Bronx County, New York, I visited an area known as the Baychester marshes. These marshes support a luxuriant dense growth of Common Reed (*Phragmites communis* var. *Berlandieri*).

This plant is sometimes characterized as an indifferent halophyte which grows best in slightly basic or alkaline soils which are occasionally flooded with polluted tidal water (Eaton, Rhodora, 54: 135-137, 1952). In this case, the waters flooding the area came from adjacent Eastchester Creek.

In this type of habitat, I was attracted to a small flock of sparrows, consisting mainly of wintering Tree Sparrows. The birds were seen feeding in and among the large terminal panicles of the Common Reed. I then proceeded to examine these plants, but neither insects nor larval masses could be found. I can only conclude that the Tree Sparrows were either feeding on the seeds or other parts of the dried inflorescences.

This was the first observation I have ever made of any bird species feeding on this relatively poor source of food.—MAURICE L. RUSSAK, 1675 Metropolitan Avenue, New York 62, N. Y.