

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In *The Wilson Bulletin* for September 1958 (p. 281), appears an account of the Spotted Sandpiper escaping a Cooper's Hawk by diving into the water. The authors, Martin and Atkeson, say they have not found another instance in the literature. However, in *The Auk* of July 1928 (p. 371), I recorded a similar incident, which occurred long ago, a boyhood observation on the Red River in Minnesota. It must have been about 1906, and I can only determine that it was either a Sharp-shinned or a Cooper's Hawk.

On 4 September 1914, on Charlton Island in southern James Bay, Canada, while approaching a turnstone on the beach, I heard a "swish" close by and saw a small hawk, which looked like a Pigeon Hawk, slanting down to the water's edge after a Spotted Sandpiper. The sandpiper flew out over the water, could not dodge, so dropped into the water and went below the surface. The hawk flew on.

These incidents in Minnesota, Alabama, and Canada show that the Spotted Sandpiper, wherever it may be, does not hesitate to go into water, and there can handle itself very well.—OLAUS J. MURIE, *Moose, Wyoming, 8 January 1960.*

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## NEW LIFE MEMBER

The photograph shows Walter R. Spofford, new life member of the Society, photographing a nest of Golden Eagles in the Appalachian Mountains last June. An Associate Professor of Neuroanatomy at the State University New York Medical College, and a graduate (Ph.D.) of Yale University, Mr. Spofford is presently working on biochemical systematics with egg-white proteins in the Falconiformes. He is also interested in molting patterns, distribution, and life histories of falconiform birds (especially the Appalachian Golden Eagles). His papers and notes are on experimental neuroembryology, molting in Gyr Falcons and Golden Eagles, and tree-nesting of Peregrine Falcons. Mr. Spofford has been an active member of the WOS since 1928, is a life member of the AOU, and an active member of the BOU, Cooper Ornithological Society, Linnaean Society of New York, Tennessee Ornithological Society, Federation of New York Bird Clubs, Avicultural Society, and the Falconry Club of America.

