

so on. The eldest brothers color was red, the second blue, the third yellow and the fourth white. The thunders of the eldest brother are recognized when it rains gently, and the other colors—yellow, or the color of lightning, and white which is the War Thunders' color are recognized by their fierce storms. After a storm some old Indian will remark that it was such and such thunders which passed by in the storm.

Belief in the Thunderbird is the basis of many beautiful legends and songs. In the springtime, when plant life does not flourish on the earth, the Indians conclude that all things on earth, including people, need the awakening, healthgiving inspiration of the Thunderbird. Dr. Beede (in "Toward the Sun,") has translated one of their songs, a portion of which is as follows:

"Do you know that the flowers are dreaming  
Till the lightnings above them are gleaming  
And the Thunderbird comes with his word,  
For they dream of the great Thunderbird."

Do you know that the eagles are flying  
And the people are dreaming and dying,  
Till the Thunderbird comes with his word,  
For they dream of the great Thunderbird."

A dance, with music, religiously celebrates the first springtime Thunder.

Next in importance to the Thunderbird is the eagle which, in some tribes, is second in importance only to the deity. Among the Pawnees, the golden eagle is considered the monarch of the skies. This bird is sometimes known as ring-tailed eagle. Its tail feathers, twelve in number, and each

bearing a distinctive name, are snowy white at base and for two thirds their length (nearly one foot) constitute the head adornment of chief and warrior. No man, unless he has done some brave act in battle, is entitled to wear this adornment. Women never. This royal bird, beloved of the overruling Gods is called "Laitah-kots."

The bald eagle presides in a sacred or holy realm. It guards rivers from a lofty perch of old cottonwood; dives beneath the waters and brings up giant fish. Bearing its burden to the shore, the golden eagle has but to approach, when Baldy will abandon his prey and desert the field.

The black eagle is a most sacred bird among the Pawnee. It is revered by the Koo-rau, or "medicine men." Its holy magic is manifest in certain rites and songs.

Among the Winnebagoes, only those distinguished for valor were allowed to wear eagle feathers, and the manner of wearing them showed the nature of the deed for which the feathers were awarded. For instance, a warrior wearing one red (dyed) and one white feather was known to have exceptional ability in fighting to cover retreat; a form of fighting requiring great skill.

The downy feathers of the eagle as well as the owl were used in sacred ceremonies and dyed red in sacrifices to the Gods.

The hawk is found in nearly every war bundle of the Winnebagoes. The war bundle is a collection of emblems of blessings granted by different spirits after prolonged fasting, and the hawk was an emblem showing that the owner of the bundle had been granted power to overcome his enemy in war. It is claimed that, at times, one of the spirits gave the faster the power to transform himself into a