

prevent sound-producing vibrations. There is no trace of internal or external muscles in the region of the bifurcation of the trachea, nor of the sterno-trachealis and tracheo-lateralis muscles. Evidently, therefore, the voiceless condition of the Turkey Vulture is due to structure and is not merely a matter of behavior.—MILDRED MISKIMEN, *Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.*

Land Bird Migrants over the Florida Straits.—Recent interest in observations of land birds migrating over water prompts me to record the following events.

On May 6, 1955, at 7:30 A.M., I sailed from Havana, Cuba, for New York. The course that day was generally northeast, the noon position being 23° 58' N. by 81° 20' W. and at sunset we were about twenty miles off Miami. At first, there was a northeast wind; then we ran through a calm, following which, the wind sprang up from the west and it became slightly hazy. About sunset, it clouded over for thirty minutes but there was no rain. No unusual weather conditions had been evident on weather maps of the preceding five days.

During the morning, a few landbirds were seen, both on board and passing by to the northward. About 1:00 P.M., when we were well into the area of west wind, landbirds began to pass in increasing numbers. They were in groups of 5 to 15 and were headed between north and north-northwest. The majority flew about fifty feet above the water, but some flocks were just above the waves and some at an estimated two hundred feet. The flight continued unbroken until dark when there appeared to be a lull, though some birds were heard overhead and were seen passing through the lights about 9:30 P.M., at which time the flight direction was more northwesterly. It was estimated that 1800 warblers and 200 larger birds were seen. The great majority of birds paid no attention to the ship. A few landed briefly and then went on, while a very few were obviously exhausted and settled down. These gradually accumulated on board and about sunset the following count was made: 1 Barn Swallow; 1 flycatcher, probably a Wood Pewee; 1 Parula Warbler; 2 Cape May Warblers; 4 Black-throated Blue Warblers; 12 Prairie Warblers; 4 Blackpoll Warblers; 35 Palm Warblers, both Yellow and Western subspecies identified, Western much predominant; 40 Northern Waterthrushes; 35 Yellow-throats; 200 Redstarts; and 25 Bobolinks. These birds were absurdly tame, resting on chairs, hats, and even shoulders and hands of the passengers, exciting a great deal of interest.

As regards non-passerine birds, a single Ringnecked Plover appeared and rested briefly. About 6:00 P.M. a group of hawks, including 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 1 small buteo not satisfactorily identified, 2 Marsh Hawks, 1 Osprey, and 4 Sparrow Hawks, arrived. These remained around the ship about ten minutes but did not perch, except for one Sparrow Hawk which settled on the rigging momentarily. This same bird was observed to make a single unsuccessful attempt to capture a Redstart.

A similar group of birds but in much smaller numbers had been seen from ship on May 4 in the southeastern part of the Florida Straits, between the Bahamas and Cuba. On this day, Bobolinks made up a much higher percentage of the total; they were singing vigorously as they passed, the other birds calling occasionally but never singing. This singing of the Bobolinks while in flight was heard but less marked in the larger flight on May 6.

In view of the mild and essentially normal weather conditions, it is believed that this flight was not a case of storm-blown or "lost" birds but a part of the normal spring migration passing from the Bahamas and the eastern half of Cuba to Florida.—NORMAN P. HULL, M.D., 2308 Highland Avenue, Fall River, Massachusetts.