

the probabilities are very strong that the remains are those of the Golden-crown, and certainly they represent one or the other of the two large species of *Zonotrichia*.

When the bird was struck, the plane was between Tulare and Delano in the San Joaquin Valley, and since the ground there is but 300 feet above sea level, the bird must have been flying approximately 10,000 feet above the surface. A northwest wind of 40 miles per hour was blowing at 10,000 feet at the time. Accordingly, the bird, with an air speed capacity of about 30 miles per hour, could have made little headway in a westerly direction. This minimizes the possibility that it had been forced to high elevations by recent crossing of the Sierran crest to the eastward and had continued on in a westward direction. The locality where it hit the plane is in any event about 40 miles west of elevations of 5000 feet in the Sierra Nevada and about 70 miles west of the Sierran passes that are 10,000 to 12,000 feet. If the bird came from the west, it would have had to cross the ridges of the inner coast ranges, but these usually do not exceed 4000 feet and are some 70 miles distant. Thus, there is little reason to suppose that this sparrow had recently been forced to this height by the necessity of crossing mountain systems. If this had happened earlier in its flight, it would have occurred before dark and in the high Sierra, a region rarely if ever visited by the large species of *Zonotrichia*. The probabilities are much greater that the bird was travelling along the axis of the broad plain of the Central Valley of California in southward migration, riding a northwest wind, and that the height above ground was attained without the influence of mountains.

The consensus of recent students of migration is that most movements of passerine birds, while little influenced by actual elevation above sea level, are carried on within 3000 feet of the ground (see for example Wing, Nat. Hist. Birds, 1956:104). Lowery (Univ. Kansas Publ. Mus. Nat. Hist., 3, 1951:389) in his calculations used for recording numbers of nocturnal migrants seen passing across the face of the moon assumes a ceiling for flight of one mile above the ground. The present occurrence seems to suggest that occasionally, although doubtless rarely, flight may reach greater heights uninfluenced by the nearness of mountainous terrain.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, December 30, 1956.*

Specimen of Parula Warbler from Southern California.—On April 29, 1956, in the course of a field trip to Thousand Palms Oasis, 11 miles east of Palm Springs, Riverside County, California, I observed a Parula Warbler (*Parula americana*). It was collected by Ross Hardy and proved to be a male. The testes were small (2 mm.) and it was not fat. Frank A. Pitelka, after examination of the specimen, points out that there is reason to believe that it is a first-year bird because of the small size (wing 54.8, tail 37.5) and the worn, faded condition of the remiges and rectrices. The bird was in tamarisk trees along a small stream in a migrating flock of birds composed of yellow (*Dendroica aestiva*), Audubon (*D. auduboni*), Townsend (*D. townsendi*), Tolmie (*Oporornis tolmiei*), and Pileolated (*Wilsonia pusilla*) warblers. So far as could be determined there was but the one individual of this species. The specimen is now number 134973 in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

So far as the writer can determine, the Parula Warbler has not been recorded from California. Its normal distribution is in the Mississippi Valley and areas to the east and north.

I wish to thank Frank A. Pitelka and Don R. Medina for examination of the specimen and M. Dale Arvey for assistance in preparation of this report.—PATRICK J. GOULD, *Moore Laboratory of Zoology, Occidental College, Los Angeles, California, December 31, 1956.*

Two Records of Unprovoked Attack by Golden Eagles.—Arnold (The Golden Eagle and its economic status, Fish and Wildlife Serv. Circ. 27, 1954:3-4) cites and discounts three alleged unprovoked attacks by Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaëtos*) upon humans and cites another attack (Ridgway, The Ornithology of Illinois, Part 1, 1889:484) which was provoked by disturbing two feeding eagles. On two occasions while performing naturalist duties in Mount Rainier National Park, Washington, I was subjected to unprovoked attack by immature Golden Eagles.

The first attack came late in the afternoon of July 23, 1947, just as I emerged from a dense thicket of firs and pines at timberline onto a barren, rocky ridge on the northeast slope of Mount Fremont, about 2 miles northwest of the Yakima Park headquarters. The first warning I had of this attack was a sound like the whine of a bullet fired from a high-powered rifle, and my reaction was to 'hit the dirt.' Even though I was flat on the ground, the bird passed close enough to ruffle my hair. Having missed