

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

on its first pass, the eagle gave a piercing *kreeee* scream and began circling and climbing for altitude. When it reached a height of several hundred feet, it folded its wings and stooped again. This time a rock thrown while it was still some distance above me caused the eagle to veer off. It indicated no further interest in my presence and left the area. I learned later that another Park Service employee had been subjected to a similar attack in the same area a week earlier.

A year later, on the morning of August 16, another young Golden Eagle made repeated attacks on me as I walked over a tableland known as Grand Park, about 2 miles northwest of where the incident of 1947 occurred. Again, I had just emerged from a heavy conifer forest onto a barren, exposed ridge when this bird left its companion about a mile away and flew over to investigate my presence. The eagle attacked immediately and repeatedly from an altitude of about 50 feet, making perhaps a dozen dives within a 2- or 3-minute period. After either having satisfied its curiosity or become dissatisfied with its inability to take this prey, the eagle returned to its companion. However, in the next three hours one of the two birds made about ten separate attacks on me, each time having to make a flight of a mile or more from where they were foraging.

The attack made in 1947 and the initial attack made in 1948 both seemed to represent instances of misidentification of prey by young, inexperienced Golden Eagles. Neither of these attacks could be accounted for on the grounds of nest defense or the defense of killed prey. These areas were seldom frequented by humans, and the native fauna apparently reacted to man, upon encountering him, largely in accordance with the relative sizes and habits of the animals involved. To eagles soaring high above the ground, the upright stature of man gives little evidence of size, and from the overhead point of view a man has no more breadth nor width than the hoary marmot (*Marmota caligata*), a species much preyed upon by Golden Eagles. Both initial attacks seemed to have been earnest attempts to take an unfamiliar but fairly small animal.—GORDON W. GULLION, *Austin, Nevada, December 19, 1956.*

Acadian Flycatcher, a New Bird for British Columbia.—For over twenty years there has been in the bird collection of the Carnegie Museum an unrecorded specimen of the so-called Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virens*) from British Columbia—an area far beyond the recognized range of the species. The bird was collected at Leonie Lake (3200 feet), near Barriere, Cariboo District, by George M. Sutton, on June 9, 1934. The collector noted that the testes were much enlarged. The occurrence of this flycatcher so far west and north is of course purely accidental.—W. E. CLYDE TODD, *Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, January 4, 1957.*

A Second Record of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker from St. Croix, Virgin Islands.—Sapsuckers are rare winter visitants in the Virgin Islands. Nichols (*Memorias de la Sociedad Cubana de Historia Natural*, 17, 1943:23–27) reports *Sphyrapicus varius* as occasionally seen on St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, and Seaman (*Wilson Bulletin*, 66, 1954:61) collected a female on January 24, 1950, on Aneгада. The only Sapsucker hitherto collected or reported in St. Croix was a female of *S. varius varius*, shot on January 3, 1924, on Estate La Grange (Beatty, *Jour. Dept. Agr. Puerto Rico*, 14, 1930:135–150).

About a year ago I bought a part of Estate Bellevue, on St. Croix, which included an area of about an acre on which the small tree *Bourreria succulenta* is common. The smooth bark of nearly every one of these trees is well marked by unmistakable Sapsucker workings, and some of them have been very extensively perforated. A single one of the many West Indian mahogany trees (*Swietenia mahagani*) in the area also shows a few Sapsucker workings, but trees of *Exostema caribaeum* (yellow torch), *Bursera simaruba* (turpentine), *Albizia lebbek* (woman's tongue), and *Torrubia fragrans* (black mampú) are untouched. From the changes in the appearance of these workings since I first found them it appears that they were made in the winter of 1954–55.

Mr. Albert Powell, of Nevis, tells me that on November 27, 1956, a Sapsucker was present and spent about two hours, mostly on one *Bourreria*. Powell had never before seen a woodpecker and was much impressed by its ability to hitch down the tree as well as up, and by its method of tearing off and casting aside shreds of bark that got in its way. He reports that after the Sapsucker left, its workings were visited by Bananaquits (*Coereba flaveola*) and lizards (*Anolis cristatellus*). Fresh