

When first sighted, we mistook the V shaped formation in which they were flying for a flock of Geese. But it was a month or two early for Wild Geese. We were in the act of putting away our canoe as they flew past overhead and so obtained a clear view through the binoculars. The wing-beat was swifter than that of Geese, there was no white patch visible and we could not hear a single note. When half a mile or so south of us, they broke the regular formation, flying thence in a mixed flock.

This is the largest flight using the Valley of which we have any record in recent years.—AARON C. BAGG, 70 Fairfield Ave., Holyoke, Mass.

Mortality among Cormorants on Coast of Chile.—During a recent voyage along the west coast of south America I was told much regarding a southern migration of sea birds along the Peruvian coast, due, it was said, to a change in the Humboldt Current following the great earthquake recently, and also was informed of many dead sea birds on the Chilean coast, south of Antofagasta. While the Grace Line Steamer, "Santa Elisa", lay at San Antonio, Chile, loading copper, opportunity offered to investigate this latter report. In company with Dr. Van Dyne, the ship's surgeon, and Engineer Deason, I went to a place called Lloillao, several miles south of San Antonio, where dead birds had been found. Walking was difficult through the deep sand so we boarded the narrow guage railroad train consisting of a Brockway bus mounted on a Ford truck. From the end of this line we walked over the mountain to the valley of the Rio Maipó, and after crossing a half-mile trestle, headed for a rocky point projecting into the ocean three miles distant. Here we discovered the truth of our adventure. Thousands of dead and dying Cormorants were found lying in heaps between the rocks or scattered along the beach, many of the latter partially covered with the drifting sands.

Those in a weak condition were easily picked up but the cause of their trouble was obscure. I cannot say certainly that they were dying of starvation as there are many other varieties of sea birds in this section that are not affected this way and the Cormorants were the only sea birds found. Some time ago, numbers of Cormorants were reported dead or dying from the streets of Viña del Mar a suburb of Valparaiso. It is supposed that these birds are the same as those that have been so well known from the Guano islands to the northward.—CHARLES L. FAGAN, R. F. D. 2, Box 58, Rahway, New Jersey.

A Gannet at Painesville, Ohio.—On November 2, 1925, Mr. Grow of the Grand River Fish Co., of this place, telephoned me that they had caught a strange bird which they wished me to identify. I drove to the fish house and found, confined in one of the fish boxes, a beautiful immature Gannet (*Sula bassana*). I was very much surprised as I never expected to see a Gannet in this part of the country.

The bird was in the gray plumage, heavily dotted with white on head and neck, the spots becoming fewer and V-shaped on the body. The eyes were light gray with a black pupil, and the bill dark horn color.