

in their migrational flights would be most interesting, and I hope that others can, perhaps, give us some valuable and interesting light on this subject. At this time I would like to mention also, observations made on the actions of flocks of mixed species of gulls, which I have not previously seen recorded.

The spit of land which makes San Diego Bay a land-locked harbor terminates in two flat areas of land: Coronado Island and North Island, each 2 or 3 miles in diameter and entirely surrounded by water. North Island, in particular, presents a large expanse of level, treeless surface to the sun, and on a calm warm day a large volume of dry warm air develops over this area, surrounded by the cooler and moister air over the water. The ascension of the warm, light air over such a field is familiar to aviators, and the gulls in this vicinity seem to delight in ascending with it.

Starting two or three hundred feet up, they commence to ascend in long sweeping spirals. Their wings are extended and no perceptible motion of the body can be noted, and up, up they sail until almost out of sight, and straining the eye to follow them. They start with perhaps a dozen or two birds, but these are soon joined from all directions by other gulls in two's and three's until 100 to 200 birds are in the air at once. It is quite a pretty sight and suggests to one a column of numerous sheets of paper carried aloft by some giant whirlwind, reaching upward as high as the eye can follow. They appear to sail very leisurely but they gain altitude with surprising rapidity. I have made some effort to estimate the height they attain but find it very difficult on account of the lack of anything stable in the sky with which to compare them.

When evidently satisfied with their evolutions the gulls disband, many of the birds volplaning to earth again to resume their never-ending quest for food, but others seem to use this method for gaining altitude for a long flight, perhaps to some neighboring island, as the last one sees of them as they disappear from sight, they are still sailing, with their wings outstretched, toward the distant horizon.—C. H. WOODWARD, *San Diego, California, April 16, 1921.*

**White-throated Sparrow in Orange County.**—On March 19, 1921, a single White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*) appeared in a small flock, made up of about twenty Intermediate Sparrows and a few Golden-crowned Sparrows that frequented a large pile of brush about thirty feet from our house. It was very easy to get a close view of it, from the windows, as it fed most of the time about the back-yard. It was seen nearly every day until April 10, when all of the flock left.—JOHN MCB. ROBERTSON, *Buena Park, Orange County, California, May 15, 1921.*

**Philadelphia Vireo in Montana.**—Saunders' list of the birds of Montana contains no record of the occurrence of the Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireosylva philadelphica*) in the State. A female bird was taken by H. E. Anthony, while collecting in company with the writer, near Johnson Lake, Sheridan County, Montana, on June 3, 1910. This region is rolling prairie, with only a sparse growth of boxelder, elm, and willow along the infrequent streams, and the bird was taken in one of these patches of timber. In spite of the comparatively late date, the bird was undoubtedly a migrant. The specimen is now no. 228,547, U. S. Nat. Mus. (Biological Survey collection).—EDWARD A. PREBLE, *Washington, D. C., May 13, 1921.*

**Western Bluebird Nesting on the Sea-coast.**—The published accounts of the breeding of the Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana occidentalis*) on the coastal plain are so few that the following note may be worth recording. There are at this writing (May 15, 1921) at least four pairs of Bluebirds in Carpinteria on the narrow plain that stretches from the last foothill to the ocean, in territory less than 50 feet above sea-level. I have located two of the nests. One is probably as near the ocean as the species is likely to nest. It is in a willow, in the last group of trees between the Coast Highway and the sea, so near a salt marsh that a very high tide would come within 50 rods of the nest.—RALPH HOFFMANN, *Carpinteria, California, May 15, 1921.*