

Repeated consideration of these matters in expanding studies over a period of nearly 40 years has sustained fully my early opinions. To place the Corvidae at the highest level on the basis of greater mental capacity is to ignore these actual facts.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., January 15, 1957.*

Unusual Early Winter Records from Oregon.—In 1953 and 1955, field work in connection with distributional studies being carried on for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service took me into Oregon for a brief interval in late November and December. My activities then were concerned largely with migratory game species, but notes were kept of other birds observed while in the field, and an occasional specimen was taken to verify unusual occurrences. Among the latter, the following seem of sufficient interest to justify placing on record at this time. In each instance subspecific determination was made by John W. Aldrich.

Regulus calendula cineraceus. Ruby-crowned Kinglet. At Pendleton, on December 12, 1953, a male was collected as it fed with a flock of Black-capped Chickadees (*Parus atricapillus*) in woods bordering the Umatilla River. Gabrielson and Jewett (Birds of Oregon, 1940) consider this species rare in winter in eastern Oregon and state that only *Regulus calendula grinnelli* has been taken east of the mountains at this time of year. It is of interest, therefore, that this specimen was found to represent the race *cineraceus*.

Dendroica townsendi. Townsend Warbler. Rather unexpected was the presence of a female Townsend Warbler at Pendleton on December 12, 1953, where it was feeding with the previously mentioned flock of Black-capped Chickadees in woods bordering the Umatilla River. Gabrielson and Jewett list but three winter records for the state, all for the Portland area; this is apparently the first record at this season of the year for eastern Oregon.

Wilsonia pusilla pileolata. Pileolated Warbler. At Coquille, 17 miles south of Coos Bay, a female Pileolated Warbler, representing the race *pileolata*, was collected on December 6, 1955, as it fed alone in underbrush fringing a small stream. This would appear to be not only the first winter record of this race for Oregon, but also the first record for its occurrence in the western part of the state. Gabrielson and Jewett give the status of *pileolata* in Oregon as a fairly common summer resident east of the Cascades, with extreme dates of occurrence as April 29 and September 21.

Melospiza lincolnii gracilis. Lincoln Sparrow. Although considered by Gabrielson and Jewett (*op. cit.*) as an uncommon migrant in the state, the presence of *gracilis* in western Oregon in December suggests the possibility that the Lincoln Sparrow winters in at least small numbers. At Coos Bay on December 7, 1955, three individuals were noted feeding with Song Sparrows in alders bordering a stretch of open marsh and a male that was collected was found to be typical of this northern coastal race.

Melospiza georgiana ericrypta. Swamp Sparrow. At Tillamook, on November 29, 1955, a female Swamp Sparrow, representing the race *ericrypta*, was collected as it fed with other sparrows in alders bordering a large open marsh. As far as now known this is the first record for the occurrence of this species in Oregon.—THOMAS D. BURLEIGH, *Fish and Wildlife Service, Moscow, Idaho, January 14, 1957.*

Migratory Flight of a Zonotrichia at 10,000 Feet Above Ground Level.—On October 31, 1956, Mr. Francis Drake was flying a single-engine Beech Bonanza airplane from Sacramento to San Bernardino, California. Between 9:00 and 9:15 p.m. while following a Civil Aeronautics flight plan at 10,000 feet above sea level, he felt a dull thud in the forward part of the plane. On landing at San Bernardino he inspected the front of the plane and found a dent at the right border of the air vent. Part of a bird was lodged in the air intake and this was retrieved for identification. It proved to be the foot, tarsus, and lower shank of a sparrow of the genus *Zonotrichia*. I am much indebted to Marshall G. Richardson and J. Stuart Rowley, as well as to Mr. Drake, for supplying information about this incident and for forwarding the specimen for examination.

The foot and lower leg feathering match in all details of size, color, and structure those of a Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia coronata*). The tarsus and foot are too large for *Zonotrichia leucophrys*. However, the Harris Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*), which reaches California in small numbers, cannot be distinguished on the basis of these parts from the Golden-crowned Sparrow. But

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