

Flights over
the countryside
in SNT
Birds mentioned
J.R.C. met

T.



U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION
MIAMI, FLORIDA

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Dear Folks,

Life continues to be rather pleasant down here, but one reason is that we are being somewhat neglected in favor of the regular students, consequently we are far from overworked. Another reason is that we are treated as instructors rather than students so far as restrictions, liberty, etc., are concerned, yet so far ^{we} haven't been given any watches. Much of the time having no hope scheduled we just take ~~up~~ up an SNT apiece (it is still the nicest

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flying plane we've flown) and
do a little cross-country flying,
in formation or other wise and
at almost any altitude up to
where it begins to get cold
with the cockpit still open.

As a matter of fact I took a
TBD up to over 15,000 the other
day, cockpit closed, but that
was a good deal higher than
we are supposed to go without
oxygen. Though its of course
perfectly safe just for a
minute or so for one who has
passed the chamber test.

Two days ago I flew a "J"
south ^{or west} to Whitewater Bay,
located Royal Palm State
Park, a place I want to visit



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soon, on the way, and then in the afternoon flew with a group up to Lake Okechobee and back, thus getting a pretty good bird's-eye-view of this part of Florida. The Everglades occupy most of the area, but have been drained in many places. Trees are scarce, grass abundant, but there are some hammocks of palms and other trees here and there. Pines are also scattered, and about the most conspicuous of these are ^{two} trees known as Brazilian and Australian pines, both of which have been

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extensively planted and apparently
^{have} run wild in some areas. They
resemble pines superficially,
but I don't know where they
really belong botanically.

Around Okeechobee especially
there is considerable truck
gardening, and though orange
groves occur, most of Florida's
oranges must grow north of
the lake. Drainage canals
are more common than roads
except near the east coast.

I haven't had a good chance
to examine the fauna at all
thoroughly, but there are
birds around. Egrets, etc., can
be seen from a plane, but
not well. Boat-tailed grackle
(almost as big as crows) and



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palm warblers (summer in
Canada) are the commonest
birds on the station here,
where there are practically
no trees, but there are also
killdeer, sparrow hawk,
hunting owls and a few
others. I've noticed large
flocks of robins flying
north to-day. In a nearby
marsh are coots, gallinules
(no purple ones seen yet) and
pied-billed grebes, and along
the shore (about 10 miles
to the east) are pelicans
and a few shore birds. I try
to explore the all too distant

keys.

You know by now that
Tex and I met, by a lucky
coincidence. He was here for
two separate nights and the
day after the first picked up
a message I left for him,
just for luck, at a likely
airport. I had dinner with
him and a friend the ^{evening after the} first
night and just went in to
say good bye the night
before he left, when he didn't
have time to come out here
to dinner.

Yesterday a day off -
sleep then a few errands
in town; also two entertaining
movies, "The Black Swan" and
"Gentleman Jim."

Love to all Toot