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Highest clouds! Very highest clouds, cirrus, some even in the stratosphere, show prismatic colors. These are caused, it is believed, by diffraction (bending of light around opaque obstacles) of light by very small particles of water, such as cloud particles. These clouds have been seen as high as 15 miles, much higher than the ordinary cirrus clouds which are generally seen at about 5 or 6 miles elevation. It is now thought that clouds seen in the stratosphere are brought there by the ascending currents of air associated with the traveling storm or cyclone.
