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Thermals! All interested in gliding or sailplaning are interested in "thermals." These are vertical air currents caused by patches of ground which are easily heated warming the surface layer of air. The ground temperature frequently rises to 200 degrees while the air immediately above it may be less than 100 degrees. Under such conditions rising currents readily form which may be used for the sport of gliding. A day most suitable for the formation of "thermals" is a calm, hot day with the bare ground and sandy places well dried up. Days when the ground is wet or the wind blows are poor for gliding as much of the heat energy is used in evaporating the moisture and the wind scatters the rising currents.