

Slight Extension of the Breeding Range of the Western Lark Sparrow.—As Lark Sparrows (*Chondestes grammacus strigatus*) are supposed to occupy the desert regions only in winter (Pacific Coast Avifauna no. 11, p. 116), it may be worth while to note that the species is a common breeder on the Mohave Desert, from Palmdale to at least twenty miles east of that point. Over this region, which lies along the desert base of the San Gabriel Range, their occurrence is general and not confined, as one might expect, to cultivated areas. While perhaps slightly more common in the pear and other deciduous orchards, they are nevertheless distributed over the unsettled country as well. Many pairs were seen daily from May 3 to May 14, 1920, and were equally common in the same locality during late April and early May of the present year. One nest containing five apparently fresh eggs was found May 5, 1920. It was built on the ground under a small dense bush in the yucca-juniper association at considerable distance from the nearest tilled land.—D. R. DICKEY AND A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, December 5, 1921.*

Albino Robin Returning to Former Nesting Site.—The following note is offered as a modest contribution to the mass of published data in support of the theory that birds return to a particular nesting site. A male robin showing patches of white on the wings and predominantly white on the under parts returned for three consecutive years to a garden in Summerland, British Columbia, where, each year, he acquired a mate and helped raise the ensuing family. His piebald appearance made him an object of suspicion to his brethren of conventional garb, and the garden witnessed frequent battles, from which he usually emerged victorious. He was known in the neighborhood as "Blewitt's white robin", and his non-appearance on the fourth year caused general regret in the little community. But four years would appear to be a relatively long span of life for a conspicuous albino.—J. A. MUNRO, *Okanagan Landing, British Columbia, November 26, 1921.*

Vermillion Flycatcher and Red Phalarope at Long Beach, California.—I wish to report the Vermillion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus mexicanus*) from the vicinity of Long Beach. I first saw the bird (a male) on November 20, and I saw it again on December 14. Some friends saw it December 11 and again December 17. Evidently just the one bird has taken up its abode there for the winter. Every time observed it has been within a radius of one-fourth mile. The habitat chosen is a slough with a few scattering willows and a few tules. For the most part the bird was observed perched on the top branches of willows but occasionally upon a fence post or tule. It displayed the usual flycatcher mannerisms by flying out, snapping up an insect, and then returning to the place from which it came.

There was an unusual migration of Red Phalaropes (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) this past fall. I saw about three hundred within an hour on the ponds of the Long Beach Salt Works. This was October 30. There was a great mortality among them this year. Dead birds were brought to the schools picked up by children in the streets or elsewhere. On the ponds mentioned above, dead birds were washed up in windrows. I could count nineteen from one position and twenty-one from another. I counted seventy-five within half an hour. The birds had no shot holes in them, and showed no external evidences of having flown against wires, but all the birds examined were emaciated in the extreme.—L. W. WELCH, *Long Beach, California, December 24, 1921.*

Sonoma Thrasher in Humboldt County, California.—While I was camping last October (1921) in company with Mr. Chester C. Lamb, near what is down on the current maps as "Thorn", a few miles north of the southern boundary of Humboldt County, it was a matter of surprise to us to hear the notes of thrashers among the thick growth of white thorn (*Ceanothus incanus*) surrounding our camp. This was situated only six or seven miles from the ocean shore, about east of the landing called Shelter Cove, and somewhat protected from ocean winds by a range of hills. These birds were very shy but we succeeded in securing three specimens on October 5 and 6, only one of which, however, had completely assumed the new fall plumage. These specimens appear to

be inseparable from *Toxostoma redivivum sonomae*. This is a more northern coast record than has so far been published, according to my recollection.

Another specimen of this species was secured near Cummings P. O., Mendocino County (California), and more were heard, but this locality is farther south and much more inland than Thorn, but not much farther north than Covelo, from which a record has been published.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD, *California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California, January 12, 1922.*

Breeding of the San Diego Titmouse on the Mohave Desert.—April 12 of the present year, the junior writer collected a pair of San Diego Titmouses (*Baeolophus inornatus murinus*), five miles east of Palmdale, in the yucca-juniper association. The female had apparently laid but a short time previously, and there was undoubtedly a nest near at hand. Another pair was heard (but not taken) a few hundred yards away. These two birds are most like *murinus*, but are not typical of that form. They are grayer dorsally, and the wing of the male measures longer than that of any coast slope bird we have. These differences possibly indicate a tendency toward *griseus*.—D. R. DICKEY AND A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *Pasadena, California, December 5, 1921.*

A December Record for the Sage Thrasher in Colorado.—On December 8, 1921, we collected a female *Oreoscoptes montanus* on the College campus at Fort Collins. The bird was in good flesh, and its stomach contained two small pebbles and remains of twenty-one flies (*Anocompta latiuscula*).—W. L. BURNETT, *Colorado State Agricultural College, Fort Collins, January 1, 1922.*

The Bathing of Hummingbirds.—From the scarcity of published references to the bathing of hummingbirds, one is led to believe that these birds are not generally aware of the benefits to be derived from an occasional bath. I have seen hummingbirds bathe so many times that I have considered it a rather commonplace occurrence, though none the less interesting, and while reading a recent paper by John Burroughs (Harper's Magazine, May, 1921, p. 789), I was somewhat startled by the statement that "This morning I saw a hummingbird taking its bath in the big dewdrops on a small ash tree. I have seen other birds bathe in the dew or raindrops on tree foliage, but did not before know that the hummer bathed at all." This refers of course to the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) and it may be that that bird seldom bathes, else so careful and experienced an observer would have seen it long ago. Mr. H. W. Bates in "A Naturalist on the Amazon" described hummingbirds as bathing by dipping into a pool of water while on the wing. This also probably refers to birds unknown in California.

During the past five or six years, I have, several times each spring, visited a little glen in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, in which at one place the water flows about a quarter of an inch deep over the flat surface of a rock. This rock has been appropriated by the Allen Hummingbirds (*Selasphorus alleni*) for a bathing place. The place at times was fairly swarming with the birds and the constant hum might lead one to believe that a nest of huge bumble bees had been disturbed. Suddenly with a buzz a bird would appear, hover over the rock for an instant, and then sprawl headlong into the water, stretching the wings and neck and lying prone on the rock, squirming the body and fluttering the wings until seemingly it became quite "water-logged". Then, just as suddenly, it would dart to a perch overhead, leaving a streak of mist in its wake like the tail of a miniature comet. Here it would preen its plumage. The surface of the rock was not over a foot across and I noted as many as four birds bathing simultaneously. Occasionally, after preening, one would return for a second dip.

Again on August 18, 1921, in Alameda, the Anna Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) treated me to a rare performance somewhat similar to that mentioned by Mr. Burroughs. I had been sprinkling the garden when a male bird came to the rose bushes and literally sprawled on the wet foliage. For several minutes he crawled among the leaves, wiping the sides of his head, spreading the wings and tail, and mopping up as much water as possible, appearing ridiculously like a tiny parrot climbing about its cage. Following this he flew to a clothes line and preened his plumage. The garden sprink-