

*Range.*—Resident at least on San Clemente and Santa Catalina islands, and probably also on those other islands of the Santa Barbara group whence the species has been recorded as breeding.

*Remarks.*—No example of Allen Hummingbird available from any mainland locality shows the measurements of *sedentarius*. In other words, the material at hand indicates that it is the race *alleni*, which summers in the coast belt chiefly of central and northern California, that is found during the migrations through interior and southern California. *Alleni* apparently winters entirely south of the United States boundary, somewhere in mainland Mexico—not in Lower California.

It would be interesting to know the racial tendencies shown by Allen Hummingbirds from the southernmost mainland breeding stations of the species, in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, California; also the characters shown by breeding birds from the more northern members of the Santa Barbara group of islands. Such critical specimens are not, however, within reach at the present writing.—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, July 8, 1929.*

*Protocalliphora in the Nest of a Mountain Chickadee.*—During June, 1928, I made a brief stay at Bluff Lake, San Bernardino Mountains, California, in company with Mr. J. Eugene Law. A nest of the Bailey Mountain Chickadee (*Penthestes gambeli baileyae*) attracted our attention by reason of having been built, not in a woodpecker hole, but behind a loosened slab of bark on a dead lodgepole pine of huge size. The adults were feeding young on June 20, but by June 27 the nest was emptied and was removed for examination. The shield-shaped slab of bark was 62 centimeters high and 28 centimeters wide; the greatest width of the nest space between the trunk and the slab was 5 centimeters. The lining material at the bottom consisted of needles of the lodgepole pine and a few twig ends from white firs, to a depth of 11 centimeters; above this was a layer about 3 centimeters in depth of horse or cow dung, plant stem fibers, and a little moss; and finally, on top, there was a felted mass, about 3 centimeters in thickness, of fine olive-colored moss, mixed with squirrel hair (of either *Otospermophilus* or *Callospermophilus*).

Upon dissecting the nest material, 76 fly larvae of various sizes and 24 pupae were recovered. These were replaced in the nest material and the whole taken to my laboratory where a number of flies emerged. Upon submitting some of these to Dr. J. M. Aldrich of the U. S. National Museum he identified them as *Protocalliphora splendida*, variety near *hirundo* S. & B. There is thus added another host species to the list of birds parasitized by members of this group of flies.—TRACY I. STORER, *Division of Zoology, University Farm, Davis, California, June 28, 1929.*

## EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

In this day of prolific publication the little "Handbook" at this writing before us (no. 7 of a series issued by the New York State Museum, Albany) might easily be thrown aside as just one more of the common run of "helps" toward popularizing bird-lore. But this booklet is extraordinary in that it must at once take its place among the relatively few really authoritative treatises on special phases of ornithology. The title is so simple as to mislead a scanner of book catalogs, "Bird Song"; for in its 200 small-octavo pages within a paper cover, the author, Aretas A. Saunders, has packed a comprehensive digest of practically everything recorded of value to date concerning the voices of birds, their

nature, their variations, their meanings, their origin, and the best methods of recording them. Not only has the large literature on the subject been critically searched and the best in it presented here, but much new material from the author's own wide experience is furnished, together with sound philosophical interpretation. We may perhaps be accused of thus praising too much; but the contrast of Saunders' treatise with certain other recent writings in the same field would seem to justify our enthusiasm. Without attempting further to describe this valuable contribution, we will close our encomium by declaring our belief that no one henceforth can have anything much worth while to say about any bird's song

or calls without first having read, indeed thoroughly studied, Saunders' essay. Every field student, most especially, should seek from it instruction as to proper graphic methods to adopt for recording bird voices at the moment they are heard out-of-doors.

## MINUTES OF COOPER CLUB MEETINGS

### NORTHERN DIVISION

**JUNE.**—The regular monthly meeting of the Northern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on June 27, 1929, at 8:00 p. m., in Room 101, Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley, with about sixty members and guests in attendance. Vice-president Clabaugh occupied the chair. The reading of minutes of last meetings of both divisions was waived. Applications for membership were read as follows: Earl C. O'Roke, Zoology Department, University of California, Berkeley, proposed by J. Grinnell; Ward C. Russell, R. 2, Box 13, Santa Cruz, Calif., by Edna M. Fisher; Miss Gwynedd Webster, 1424 Allston Way, Berkeley, by J. Grinnell; Claude T. Silva, R. F. D. 628, San Lorenzo, Calif., by E. R. Hall.

A letter was read from Miss Emily Smith, Secretary of the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, cordially inviting the Northern Division of the Cooper Club to "come home" to a joint meeting with the Audubon Society in San Jose on the fourth Thursday in October. [It will be recalled here that the Club was originally organized in San Jose.] Because of the absence of many Northern Division members on vacation, action on the invitation was deferred until the July meeting.

Miss Margaret Wythe reported the presence during the past three weeks of a singing Cassin Vireo in Faculty Glade. A paper on the "Meaning of Migration in Birds" was read by Mr. Grinnell, but discussion of it was deferred because of the presence of a notable visitor. The Chairman thereupon introduced Dr. T. S. Palmer, who outlined in a most interesting way the early ornithological history of California, the natural history recorded by members of the Geological Survey of California, and so on down to the twenty-five year period ending about 1895. Dr. Palmer himself, during his residence in Oakland and Berkeley, was a member of this group and it was a great pleasure

to listen to his reminiscences of the collectors and collecting grounds of those days. He urged that today's students regard the recording of the activities of the earlier group as an imperative duty, since with each year the opportunity lessens for accurate study of that period.

In closing, Dr. Palmer told of the very large number of foreign birds imported each year into California and of the large aviaries which have been established, notably one on Catalina Island, which is said to contain 300 species of exotic birds. He pointed out the fact that nowhere else in the United States has the student of ornithology such an excellent opportunity to broaden his knowledge of native species through comparison with related genera from other countries.

Adjourned.—HILDA W. GRINNELL, *Secretary*.

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

**JUNE.**—The regular monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Ornithological Club was held on June 25, 1929, at 8:00 p. m., at the Los Angeles Museum, Los Angeles, California, with about twenty members and friends present. President Harris was in the chair, and in the absence of Mr. Michener, Mr. Willett acted as secretary. Minutes of the Southern Division meeting in May were read.

The following were applications for membership. John Edwin Coe, 4015 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill., by W. Lee Chambers; W. R. Penny, Hotel Carlton, Berkeley, Calif., by Genevieve S. Burk; G. A. Frick, 5922 Tipton Way, Los Angeles, Calif., by W. Lee Chambers; S. A. Glassell, 1533 Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, Calif., by W. Lee Chambers; Walter M. Avis, 129 S. Thomas St., Pomona, Calif., by Harold Michener; Alva Oakes, 586 Everett St., Portland, Oreg., by Stanley G. Jewett; B. J. Hales, Brandon Normal School, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada, by H. H. Bailey; Lucile Hinze, 813 S. Adams St., Glendale, Calif., by L. H. Miller.

It was voted that no meetings of the Southern Division be held during July and August. Mr. Hubricht reported finding a nest of the Ash-throated Flycatcher in an upright steel pipe. Mr. Reis exhibited a double nest of the Bullock Oriole.

The meeting then adjourned for inspection of several trays of skins of Central American birds.—G. WILLETT, *Acting Secretary*.