

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-