

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