Harporhynchus redivivus pasadenensis, new subspecies.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA THRASHER.

Type, ♂ ad., No. 2056, Coll. J. G., Pasadena, California, Feb. 6, 1897. General coloration similar to that of the northern form, but plumage ashier or less distinctly brown. Whole upper parts dark sepia, where in the case of the northern bird there is a well-marked tinge of a brown approximating isabella color; this difference is most noticeable on the top of the head. Lower parts likewise less brightly tinted; pectoral band darker and grayer; throat nearly pure white, this character being quite pronounced.

Measurements. — Average of 12 specimens of *H. redivivus*: wing, 3.96; tail, 5.52; bill from nostril, 1.17; tarsus, 1.39.

Average of 17 specimens of *H. r. pasadenensis*: wing, 3.92; tail, 5.30; bill from nostril, 1.21; tarsus, 1.36.

Nearly all my northern specimens have the throat patch strongly suffused with isabella color. Unfortunately, I have not been able to obtain specimens from Monterey, but birds from adjoining counties exhibit the character of true *redivivus*. Specimens from the Sacramento Valley (Amador County, etc.) show the most extreme brown type of coloration. My series of *pasadenensis* is quite large, but there is remarkably little variation. Badly worn specimens of the two races, however, are scarcely distinguishable.

THE SAN NICOLAS ROCK WREN.

BY JOSEPH GRINNELL.

SAN NICOLAS ISLAND lies between sixty and seventy miles from the nearest point of the southern California mainland, and is the most remote of the Santa Barbara Group. It is seven miles long by three wide, and resembles a huge sand-dune. The yellow shifting sands support but very scant vegetation, and consequently insects are few. Yet, in the spring of 1897, I found Rock Wrens to be quite numerous on most parts of the island, frequent-

ing ravines and the many gullies which cross the mesa at the summit of the island. It is not unreasonable, therefore, that a resident species on this isolated desert should become affected by these peculiar conditions, and prove somewhat different from its mainland counterpart.

Salpinctes obsoletus pulverius, new subspecies.

SAN NICOLAS ROCK WREN.

Type, ♂ ad., in abraded breeding plumage, No. 2615, Coll. J. G., San Nicolas Island, California, May 19, 1897.

Measurements: length, 6.12; wing, 2.80; tail, 2.20; tarsus, .85; culmen, 75; bill from nostril, .58; depth of bill at nostril, .18.

Pattern of coloration similar to that of the mainland *S. obsoletus*, but entire plumage, especially the upper parts, suffused with ochraceous or dust color, almost identical with the tint of the soil on San Nicolas Island.

Unfortunately no San Nicolas Rock Wrens in fresh fall plumage are available, and this yellowish coloration may be due in part to the bleaching and abrasion of the plumage, but the character is, nevertheless, quite apparent when compared with mainland specimens in correspondingly worn plumage. This is probably an instance of protective coloration, as foxes were found on the island, and small birds must form a good share of their prey.

The best character of *pulverius*, however, is the notably greater size of the bill and feet, the measurements of which approach closely to those of *S. guadeloupensis*. The appended table shows the comparative measurements of specimens from the mainland and interlying islands, as well as the eight adult specimens of *pulverius* obtained on San Nicolas Island during the middle of May, 1897. The specimens from San Clemente and Santa Barbara Islands are intermediate in characters.

Quite a large series of Rock Wrens from Western North America are before me, and very little variation is to be found. Southern California specimens are indistinguishable from those taken in the Rocky Mountain region and eastward into Nebraska, where, I believe, Say's type was taken.

I am indebted to the National Museum officers for the loan of a series of *Salpinctes.*

MEASUREMENTS.

	Length.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.	Culmen.	Bill from Nostril.	Depth of bill at Nostril.
Average of 8 specimens *S. o. pulverius* from San Nicolas Island.	6.00	2.75	2.17	.85	.72	.57	.17
Average of 2 specimens (intermediate) from San Clemente Island.	5.93	2.71	2.09	.80	.69	.57	.16
Average of 5 specimens (intermediate) from Santa Barbara Island.	6.05	2.77	2.24	.79	.67	.54	.15
Average of 19 specimens *S. obsoletus* from the adjacent mainland of Southern California.	5.86	2.75	2.18	.78	.67	.54	.15

A MONTH WITH THE GOLDFINCHES.

BY MARY EMILY BRUCE.

THE nesting season is nearly over and the air is full of the voices of young birds before the Goldfinches begin to build. In the leisurely golden time of the year, when the fields are yellow with grain and the roadsides gay with golden-rod, the dainty pair, in love with the summer, the sunshine, and each other, plan their home. True to their careless, happy natures they neither hurry nor overwork. A suitable place is chosen, the nest is built, the eggs are laid, and the little dame sits content in the sun, while her mate fills the air with music, as high over woods and fields he takes his undulating flight in search of food. To watch a Goldfinch's home is a privilege that brightens the whole summer, and one would like to write their story with a pen dipped in sunshine.

It was late in July before I reached the farmhouse among the hills of Vermont where I was to spend my vacation, and I found the orchards near the house already full of young birds. Baby