

REVILLAGIGEDO ISLANDS.

Neither Salvin nor I were able to visit these islands, and the only information respecting the physical features and distribution of the avifauna is from the account given by Mr. A. W. Anthony in the 'Auk,' xv. pp. 311-318, after his visit in 1897.

The Revillagigedo Islands lie to the S.W. of Cape San Lucas, Lower California, and consist of a group of four islands, at some considerable distance apart, but all are of volcanic origin and in general appearance extremely rough and broken. Socorro, the largest of the group, is about 240 miles south-west of Cape San Lucas and about 285 miles to the westward of Maria Madre, the largest island in the Tres Marias group, off San Blas. It is estimated to be about one hundred square miles in extent, and rises to a height of 4000 ft. in the centre, where there is an extinct volcano. The greater part of the island is covered with a dense mass of undergrowth which it is almost impossible to penetrate, especially on the north and north-west, or weather side. Trees are abundant there, but do not exceed forty or fifty feet in height, though usually covering a considerable area with their spreading branches. On the south and east the trees are mostly confined to the cañons, where they are smaller than on the northern slope.

Clarion Island lies approximately about 200 miles westward of Socorro and somewhat further south, and has little in common with the other islands, either in fauna or flora. Its length is about five miles, and width one mile, the ground rising about 1500 feet above the sea. A few low trees or shrubs, the largest not over ten feet in height, are scattered along the main plateau, and in a few places extend to the level ground on the south side, which lies between the Mesa and the coast. Nearly the whole of this flat ground is covered with a dense growth of cactus (*Platopuntia*), over which has grown a mass of vines, and a passage through this belt can only be made by the diligent use of a bush knife. At a short distance from the beach were found two small shallow ponds, which contain water during the rainy season only, but as the high tides evidently overflow the barriers and flood them with sea water, it is doubtful if they are ever otherwise than brackish. At the time of Mr. Anthony's visit, the ponds had been dry for some months, and no water was found upon the island.

As might be expected from the position and vegetation of Clarion, the birds were quite different from those on Socorro and San Benedicte. The only land bird common to any two islands was the Raven, but on Socorro it was not seen.

San Benedicte is a small island about three miles in length with an average width of half a mile, and lies 35 miles north of Socorro. There is little vegetation, but wherever sufficient soil is found, there is a heavy crop of coarse grass growing five or six feet in height, and rendering progress extremely difficult. The barbed seeds