

penetrate a man's clothing, and were found to be even more unpleasant than the cactus thickets on Clarion Island.

Roca Partida, or Divided Rock, lies 65 miles north-west of Clarion, and is the fourth of the group. It is of considerable elevation and has the appearance of a ship under sail.

The number of species of birds observed by Mr. Anthony are as follows:—Socorro (24—13 of which were generally distributed land birds), Clarion (17—10 of which were land birds), San Benedicte (11—including 3 land birds).

TRES MARIAS ISLANDS.

As in the case of the Revillagigedo Group, neither Salvin nor I visited the Tres Marias Islands; but Alphonse Forrer collected in Maria Madre on our behalf and obtained a large number of specimens. For a description of the physical aspect of the islands we are indebted to Mr. E. W. Nelson, who wrote a 'General Account of the Tres Marias Islands with Reports on Mammals and Birds,' supplemented by Notes by other authors on the Reptiles, Crustacea, and Plants (North American Fauna, No. 14, 1899).

The islands are situated about 65 miles off the west coast of Mexico from San Blas, between lat. 21° and 22° and long. 106° – 107° , and consist of a group comprising Maria Madre, Maria Magdalena, Maria Cleofa, and San Juanito, arranged in a north-westerly and south-easterly direction.

About 20 miles from the mainland lies the small island of Isabel, about 1 mile long and 150 feet high. It chiefly consists of the remains of an old volcano, and a small crater still occupies the centre. There is evidence of its having once been a much larger island, though now apparently sinking. The soundings in the channel between the islands and the mainland gradually deepen to nearly 300 fathoms, but west of the group the sea bottom falls rapidly to over 1500 fathoms.

Maria Madre, the largest island, measures 8 by 15 miles, and rises over 2000 feet above the sea. The interior is occupied by a mountain ridge extending almost the whole of its length, but descending to a gently sloping area at each end. The eastern side has the longer slope, while the western or seaward face is much more abrupt, thus corresponding with the formation of the mountains parallel to the coast on the adjacent mainland. Both slopes are scored at intervals with cañons, which usually descend in a nearly direct line to the sea, and along the lower slopes of which, Spanish cedars and wild figs are grown, certain trees attaining a great size. Generally speaking, the forest is low and scrubby near the shore, but increases in luxuriance farther up the slopes. In its primeval condition before the advent of wood cutters, a fine example of typical forest growth must have been presented here.

North of Maria Madre, and separated by a channel 4 miles wide and 5 or 6 fathoms