

Sallé, *Mus. Brit.*), Vera Cruz (*de Saussure*⁹), Zehuaine, Tehuantepec, Tuxpango, Orizaba (*Sumichrast*, *U.S. Nat. Mus.*⁴), Mirador (*Sartorius*, *ib.*⁴); GUATEMALA, Dueñas (*Salvin*, *Mus. Brit.*⁸); PANAMA, Veragua (*Whitely*, *Mus. Brit.*).

The Cotton-Rat of the Southern United States and of Central America varies considerably in colour, and still more strikingly in the proportional length of the tail and size of the hind foot, Dr. Coues's elaborate tables showing a range of from 2".25 to 5".25 in the former, and from 0".97 to 1".40 in the latter measurement. Such differences naturally suggest specific distinction; and accordingly they have been the foundations of Professor Baird's⁵ and M. de Saussure's⁹ species, the extremes in length of tail and foot being found in Mexican specimens. But a careful comparison of the very large series in the Smithsonian Museum has enabled Dr. Coues to show that every intermediate proportion may be found, and that Texan and Mexican individuals differ more from each other than they do from Carolina specimens. The examples to which I have access confirm this view, and I therefore fully concur in the identification of *Sigmodon berlandieri* and *Hesperomys toltecus* with *S. hispidus*.

The range of the Cotton-Rat extends further south than has been hitherto recorded; for, though Dr. v. Frantzius does not appear to have met with it in Costa Rica, specimens have been supplied to the British Museum by Whitely from Veragua. Its habits have been fully described by Audubon and Bachman*, who state that it is gregarious and highly carnivorous.

Mr. Salvin's specimens were obtained at Dueñas, and shot in the open at the edge of some thick grass; the species, he tells me, is not uncommon in that district.

5. NEOTOMA.

Neotoma, Say & Ord, Journ. Acad. Philad. iv. p. 346 (1825).

In the Wood-Rats we have a typically Nearctic genus, represented in Central America by two species, one of which is peculiar to our subregion. Closely allied to the last genus, *Neotoma* has even larger ears and a much longer tail; the skull has no supraorbital ridges, and only short incisive foramina; and the molars, except in aged individuals, have the indenting enamel-folds open and angular, giving the crowns of the teeth very much the prismatic character of those of *Arvicola*. The genus presents two types, according as the tail is densely haired and bushy, as in *N. cinerea* (Ord) of the western territories, or nearly naked, as in the remaining species. To the latter section belong the two forms found within our limits, which differ in the following characters:—

1. *N. floridana*. Upper parts greyish brown, washed with fulvous on the flanks; lower parts white; feet entirely white; tail bicolorous. Average length 9", of tail 6".

* Quad. N. Am. i. pp. 230–232.