

## DESCRIPTION OF A NEW JAY FROM CALIFORNIA.

BY H. W. HENSHAW.

*Aphelocoma insularis*, sp. nov.

General color above, including surface of wings and tail, dark azure blue, deepest on head.

Back deep sepia brown. Feathers from just anterior to eye to the occiput tipped with white, forming a streaked line. Sides of head, extending well down on neck and breast, dark azure blue. A spot anterior and posterior to eye, including lores and ear-coverts, black.

Feathers of throat and breast ashy white edged with blue. Posteriorly the underparts dull white. Crissum and under tail-coverts blue.

HAB. Santa Cruz Island, California.

## MEASUREMENTS.

	<i>Wing.</i>	<i>Tail.</i>	<i>Bill.</i>	<i>Tarsus.</i>
♂ ad.....	5.30	6—	1.30	1.85
♀ ad.....	5.40	6.28	1.20	1.79
— ad.....	5.40	6.10	1.17	1.65

The island to which the above species is confined, so far as known at present, is the innermost of the Santa Barbara Group, and is distant from the California coast about twenty miles. While on a short visit to the island in June, 1875, I collected three specimens of the bird in question which, after considerable hesitation, I decided to call *californica*, though they differed considerably from the few specimens of that bird then at hand. Since then the number of specimens of *californica* in the National Museum has so materially increased that nearly every portion of its range on the west coast, from Cape St. Lucas to Oregon, is represented in the series. Having recently had occasion to examine the entire collection of Jays, Mr. Ridgway has kindly called my attention to the fact that notwithstanding the accession of so much new material the island specimens still remain unique. I therefore hesitate no longer to describe them as representing a new species.

The insular habitat of the bird would seem to preclude the possibility of intergradation with the mainland form, if, indeed, the ample material at hand for comparison did not negative such an assumption.

The origin of the bird can hardly be doubtful. Individuals

doubtless reached the island from the mainland, and being non-migratory their continued residence under new conditions has effected very considerable changes of size and coloration.

The essential differences of the island bird from *californica* are its large size, deeper colors, especially of the brown on back, and the blue under tail-coverts instead of white. With reference to its coloration, it is a curious fact that all the colors are much deeper than of specimens from the northern counties of California and of Oregon where, from the presence of deep forests and a heavy rainfall, the coloration should be darker than anywhere to the southward. Specimens of *californica* from the mainland, both in California and Oregon, appear to be remarkably uniform in coloration. In its blue under tail-coverts *insularis* is like *woodhousei*, but otherwise its resemblance to that form is no closer than to *californica*.

Several other species of land birds were found to inhabit the island, and doubtless there were a considerable number not detected in the very hurried search, especially as but a small portion of the island was visited. Specimens were obtained of *Otocoris alpestris rubea*, *Sturnella magna neglecta*, *Carpodacus frontalis rhodocolpus*, *Melospiza fasciata samuelis*, and *Helminthophila celata lutescens*. None of these, however, so far as the few specimens testify, show noteworthy differences from the respective mainland forms.

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## THE BIRDS OF WESTERN MANITOBA—ADDENDA.

BY ERNEST E. THOMPSON.

[N. B.—Hitherto I have written under the assumed name of "Seton"; henceforth I shall write and be known only by my true name, as above.]

MR. RIDGWAY informs me that in the National Museum at Washington there is a specimen of true *Pediæcetes phasianellus* from Lake Winnipeg. The common Manitoban form is probably *campestris*.

My brother, Dr. A. S. Thompson, has sent me from Carberry, a Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*), thus confirming my aural identification as published. Also a Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) with nest and eggs.

258. *Sturnella magna*. MEADOW LARK.—Given by Professor Macoun as found at "Grand Valley and north of Lat. 51.0"