

visit the roost. Not a bird was to be seen or heard about the trees and the Swallows were still perching upon our house when we went to bed. A gentleman who has a martin-house told us his Martins came back that night, though it had been several weeks since they left. We concluded the probable explanation of the episode was that perching upon the willows in the strong wind was too serious an undertaking and that they had to disband for the night and lodge wherever a safer place offered.

My note-book says: "Sept. 9. — Field glasses revealed only Martins in the group at the willows. These went through the same evolutions as formerly." "Sept. 26. — Birds at willows practically gone. Only about forty left."

This congregating has been noticed for many years; indeed I cannot find in the minds of the oldest inhabitants of our little city of Waterville, a recollection of a summer without them.

We suppose that the time of their appearance, middle of July, is regulated by the nesting season and the strength of the young to accompany their parents; but just why they gather, if such roosts are common, and whether their evolutions are thought to be intelligent and performed with any real purpose, we should be glad to know.

I asked two little urchins one evening what the birds were doing up there. One said, "I guess they 're marchin'"; the other, "No, they ain't! I know what they 're doin' — they 're dancin'."

A NEW SPECIES OF *THRYOTHORUS* FROM THE PACIFIC COAST.

BY A. W. ANTHONY.

A SERIES of Wrens collected the past summer, by Dr. Edgar A. Mearns and myself, on the island of San Clemente, California, prove to be so different from Vigors's Wren of the mainland that I have ventured to describe it as a new species to be known as:—

Thryothorus leucophrys, sp. nov.

SP. CHAR. — Differing from *T. spilurus* in decided gray wash on the upper parts, in the less heavily barred under tail-coverts, and in having a somewhat longer bill.

Type, No. 5514; ♂, Coll. A. W. A., San Clemente Island, California. Above sepia brown with grayish wash, especially on the interscapulars; superciliary stripe conspicuous, reaching posterior border of nostril in a heavy white line, much more pronounced than in any *spilurus* I have seen; chin, throat, middle of breast and belly pure white; sides of breast and sides, of a shade of gray approximating Ridgway's No. 7; flanks with a slight wash of bister; lower tail-coverts grayish-white with inconspicuous black bars; lower surface of tail light slate-gray, tipped with smoky gray. Wing, 55 mm.; tail, 60 mm.; culmen, 16 mm.; tarsus, 20.5 mm.

Although the present species is obviously closely related to the mainland bird, *T. v. spilurus*, I see no reason at present for regarding it as a subspecies of that form. San Clemente Island lies seventy-five miles from the mainland, and it is quite evident that the species does not intergrade through the other islands of the Santa Barbara group, as the *Thryothorus* from those islands proves to be no nearer related than does the mainland form.

The differences are at once noticeable even at a glance; the longer bill, the more purely white and much more conspicuous superciliary stripe, together with the more gray upper parts are quite striking to one acquainted with the mainland bird. The species is quite common in the thick cactus and low brush on the south end of the island, but owing to its habits is quite difficult to secure.



A NEW SUBSPECIES OF *HARPORHYNCHUS* FROM
LOWER CALIFORNIA.

BY A. W. ANTHONY.

A SERIES of *Harporhynchus cinereus* taken from San Quintin to San Fernando differs so radically from the typical bird from Cape St. Lucas that I have separated the northern bird as a subspecies to be known, in honor of Dr. E. A. Mearns, as:—