

A New Scrub Wren from Houtman's Abrolhos,  
Western Australia.

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[Contribution from the South Australian Museum].

SERICORNISNIS MACULATUS HOUTMANENSIS SUBSP. N.  
THE ABROLHOS SCRUB WREN.

Adult Male—Crown, cheeks, neck and upper surface, grey faintly washed with olive on the back and upper tail coverts. A white superciliary stripe extending from the frontal band to a similar distance behind the eye; a white spot below the eye. A narrow frontal band and a triangular patch in front of the eye, black. Feathers on the forehead with a blackish margin; chin and breast, white, breast feathers with a narrow blackish shaft-streak. Abdomen and under tail coverts dirty white, sides of body and flanks, buffy grey. Primaries sooty, the first six margined with white on their outer webs. Spurious wing feathers, black, broadly margined with white. Upper wing-coverts grey, faintly washed with olive; under wing-coverts, white. Tail, brown with a broad black subterminal band; all excepting the central feathers with a white terminal margin. Bill, brown, paler at the base and darker at the tip.

Legs and feet, blackish brown. Iris, pale yellow. Total  
 length of skin, 106 m.m.; wing, 53 m.m.; tail, 46 m.m.. tarsus, culmen, 12  
 m.m.

Adult Female The white superciliary stripe commences at the base of the bill, the black frontal band being absent and the triangular patch in front of the eye buffy grey. The breast feathers have a broader and more conspicuous shaft streak.

Gould states "Specimens, from the Houtinan's Abrolhos, are of a smaller size and a much greyer tint on the back, and have much darker coloured legs."

The grey upper surface and the almost white underside, as well as the darker colouration of the bill, legs and feet, are very conspicuous distinguishing features between this and the mainland bird; but, according to measurements, there is very little difference in size. Another sub-species (*S. maculatus balstoni*) has been described by Grant\* from the Bernier Islands but as material and descriptions are not available, I am unable to compare it with this bird.

† Gould's, Handbook, Birds Aust. i., 1365, p. 361.

\* Bull, Brit. Orn. Club, xxiii., 1909, P. 72.