A. HYLOCICHLA.

1. Turdus mustelinus.


Turdus (Hylocichla) mustelinus, Coues, B. Col. Vall. p. 28.


Supra precipue in pileo cinnamomeus, dorso postico et cauda olivaceo tinetis; subtus albus, pectore et hypochondriis distincte nigro maculatis; auricularibus et capitis lateribus nigro et rufescente albedo notatis; loris albis; rostro coryline, mandibula basi et pedibus flavis. Long. tota 7-5, ale 4-3, caudae 2-9, rostri a rictu 1-0, tarsi 1-25. (Descr. exempl. ex Choctum, Vera Paz. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. NORTH AMERICA, east of the Missouri plains. — MEXICO, Cordova (Sallé), Jalapa (de Oca), Orizaba (Sumichrast), Tehuantepec city (Sumichrast), Tierra Caliente of the Atlantic (le Strange), Tabasco; GUATEMALA, Choctum, Coban, Tactic, Godines (O. S. & F. D. G.); HONDURAS, Omoa (Leyland). — Cuba.

This well-known species was described by Latham and Pennant towards the end of last century; and upon their descriptions Gmelin bestowed the name Turdus mustelinus. It is a common species throughout the United States, between the Mississippi river and the Atlantic, and breeds as far north as Massachusetts. In winter it rarely visits Cuba, but is common in the eastern parts of Mexico and Central America, as far south as Omoa on the north coast of Honduras. In Guatemala the most western point we have met with it is Godines, a small village 7000 feet above the sea, situated in the mountains at the eastern end of the upland lake of Atitlan; here it was observed in February 1874. In the neighbourhood of Coban, in Vera Paz, it is, during the winter months, a very common bird; and it may be found in the second-growth woods, especially wherever a mountain-stream runs. It utters no song during its stay in Guatemala; but during the summer Turdus mustelinus is remarkable for its song, to the sweetness of which all writers on North-American birds bear testimony.

As Prof. Baird remarks, this Thrush is subject to very slight variation in its markings, but some specimens have the spots on the breast rather larger and more thickly spread than others. This difference is shown in our series from Guatemala, and sufficiently proves that there is no ground for supposing T. densus, Bonap., founded on a specimen from Tabasco, to be a valid species.