Turdus (Hylocichla) swainsoni, Coues, B. Col. Vall. i. p. 34 19.
Turdus minor, Gm. Syst. Nat. i. p. 809 (partim); Scl. P. Z. S. 1857, p. 212(?) 11.

Supra cinnamomeo-brunneus unicolor; subus albus, gula, genis et pectore fulvescens lavatis; cervix antico, pectore et hypochondriis brunneo crebro maculatis; rostro corneo, mandibulae basi et pedibus pallide corylinis. Long. tota 7-0, aliæ 3-9, caudæ 2-8, rostri a rictu 0-8, tarsi 1-1. (Deser. exempl. ex Paraíso, Panama. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. N. AMERICA, Eastern States, westwards to Humboldt Mountains, north to Slave Lake and Fort Yukon. — MEXICO (1), Orizaba (Botteri 4) (?), Tapana, Tehuantepec (Surnichrast 7) (?); GUATEMALA, Cobán (Sarg fide v. Berlepsch); COSTA RICA, Barranca, Frailes, and Cervantes (Carmiol 6), Irazu (Rogers); PANAMA, Lion Hill (M‘Leannan 12), Paraíso (Hughes).—COLOMBIA 12; ECUADOR 4; PERU 3; CUBA 9.

Though this Thrush was known to Latham 1 and Pennant 2 and other early writers, no name was applied to it that is admissible until Dr. Cabanis, in 1846, bestowed upon it that of Turdus swainsoni 2, under which it is now universally known. The history of the early nomenclature of this bird is fully given by Dr. Coues in his ‘History of the Hylocichla,’ and in the synonymy of the species 10. A full account of T. swainsoni and its close ally T. ustulatus will also be found in Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway’s work.

Putting aside T. aliciae for the present, and considering the relationship subsisting between the eastern and western forms of this bird, we find points in their winter distribution that are of considerable interest. Hitherto we have been in the habit of ascribing the winter visitant to Guatemala to the eastern bird, T. swainsoni; but the acquisition of a larger series and a reexamination of the question shows that by far the larger portion of them are of the western form, T. ustulatus. Still the true T. swainsoni does occur in Guatemala, as Count v. Berlepsch assures us he has a specimen from Cobán that is undoubtedly of that race. Passing further south, we find that in Costa Rica the true T. swainsoni seems to be exclusively found. Beyond Costa Rica we have been unable to trace T. ustulatus at all, every specimen from Panama and South America belonging to the T. swainsoni form. We are left in some uncertainty as regards the Mexican bird. T. ustulatus has undoubtedly been recognized in the Tres Marias Islands; but a bird from Orizaba, and others from Tehuantepec, have been ascribed to T. swainsoni, a race we should not expect to find in Mexico at all.

The winter distribution of these two races is almost exactly parallel to that of Geothlypis philadelphica and G. macgillivrayi, where the eastern bird is absent from Mexico and Guatemala, the western bird being the prevalent species. The two mingle in Costa Rica; and in Panama and further south the eastern form is exclusively found.

4. Turdus ustulatus.