Turdus swainsoni, var. ustulatus, Baird, Brew. & Ridgw. N. Am. B. i. p. 16

Turdus swainsoni, c. ustulatus, Coues, B. Col. Vall. i. p. 35

Turdus minor, Scl. P. Z. S. 1857, p. 212 (?)

Turdus swainsoni, Lawr. Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 4, p. 11 (?)

Supra olivaceo-brunneus unicolor; subitus albus, gula, genis et pectore fulvescenti lavatis; cervix antico, pectore et hypochondriis brunneo crebre maculatis; rostro corneo, mandibulae basi et pedibus pallide cornyinis. Long. tota 7-0, alae 3-7, caudae 2-8, rostri a rictu 8, tarsi 1-2. (Descr. maris ex Volcan de Agua, Guatemala (alt. 3500 ft.). Mus. nostr.)

Hab. N. AMERICA, Pacific coast from Alaska to California. — MEXICO, Tres Marias Islands (Grayson), Orizaba (Botteri?), Tehuantepec (Sumichrast ?); GUATEMALA, Coban, Dueñas, Costa Grande (O. S. & F. D. G.).

This western race of T. swainsoni, from which it differs in the more rufescent tint of its plumage above, seems to winter in Mexico and Guatemala. Grayson found it quite abundant in the month of January in the woods of the Tres Marias Islands off the Mexican coast, where it was more timid and shy than any other bird on the islands. It uttered a low plaintive whistle, and seemed solitary in its habits. Grayson adds that though common on these islands it is never seen on the adjoining mainland. Birds attributed to T. swainsoni have been recorded from Orizaba and Tehuantepec; but from the line of migration of this race, which barely touches eastern Guatemala, it seems probable that these birds really belonged to the rufous form T. ustulatus.

In Guatemala we found it very common at Coban in Vera Paz during the winter months, where it frequented the second-growth woods so prevalent in that district. On the Pacific side of Guatemala we did not meet with it until the winter of 1873–74. It was then found to be not uncommon on the slopes of the mountains between Capetillo and San Diego, a heavily wooded tract of country with patches of second-growth woods.

In thus tracing the winter quarters of T. ustulatus and T. swainsoni as shown by the slight difference in colour between them, we are aware that these differences are of a very slight character, and that it is very likely that the two forms will, at no distant date, have to be considered as belonging to one somewhat variable species. Should this be so, the name this species should bear is T. ustulatus.

5. Turdus aliciae.


Turdus (Hylacticha) swainsoni, b. aliciae, Coues, B. Col. Vall. i. p. 35.

Similis T. swainsoni, sed colore corporis superi grisescentiore, genis griseis et colore gule et pectoris albicantioribus distinguendus. Long. tota 7-0, alae 4-1, caudae 3-0, rostri a rictu 8, tarsi 1-23. (Descr. maris ex Chiriqui. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. N. AMERICA, Eastern States, west to Fort-Yukon and Missouri-river States, shores