

and *C. dryas*) are found in the forest-clad slopes of the mountains at moderate height; others (as *C. melpomene*, *C. occidentalis*, and *C. griseiceps*) frequent the woods of the tablelands of 4000 to 5000 feet elevation; whilst the upland forests of the volcanoes, to a height of 10,000 feet, are the abode of *C. alticola*, *C. frantzii*, and perhaps of *C. gracilirostris*. The species are generally observed on the ground, searching amongst dead leaves for their food. *C. melpomene* has a pleasing song, not unlike that of a Robin (*Erithacus*), a bird which its gait and actions also call to mind.

The genus was originally founded on a Venezuelan species described as *C. auranti-rostris* by Dr. Hartlaub, and subsequently as *C. immaculatus* by Bonaparte. Mr. Gould's genus *Malacocichla* (based upon *Catharus dryas*), though somewhat aberrant as regards coloration, is structurally identical with *Catharus*. Mr. Gould considered his species to be closely allied to *Chamaeza* and *Grallaria* (Formicariidæ); but this view cannot be maintained, *Catharus* being a typical member of the Turdidæ. The figure of *C. dryas** shows the front tarsal plate to be divided into three scutella. This is not so in any specimen we have examined, the tarsi of all of which have a single undivided plate running down the front.

1. *Catharus melpomene*.

Turdus melpomene, Cab. Mus. Hein. i. p. 5 (1850¹); Licht. Nomencl. p. 25.

Catharus melpomene, Scl. P. Z. S. 1858, p. 97², 1859, pp. 323³, 362⁴, 370⁵; Scl. & Salv. Ibis, 1859, p. 6⁶, 1860, p. 29⁷; Cab. J. f. Orn. 1860, p. 322⁸; Baird, Rev. Am. B. p. 7⁹; Lawr. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. ix. p. 90¹⁰; Sumichrast, Mem. Bost. Soc. N. H. i. p. 542¹¹; Frantz. J. f. Orn. 1869, p. 289¹².

Catharus auranti-rostris, Scl. P. Z. S. 1856, p. 294¹³ (nec Hartl.).

Supra cinnamomeo-brunneus, alis extus læte saturationibus, pileo dorso fere concolori; subtus griseo-albidus, pectore grisescentiore, gula haud striata; rostro et pedibus aurantiaco-flavis. Long. tota 6·5, alæ 3, caudæ 2·5, tarsi 1·25, rostri a rictu 0·8. (Descr. exempl. ex Jalapa, Mexico. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. MEXICO, Cordova (*Sallé*¹³), Jalapa¹ (*de Oca*⁴), Totontepec (*Boucard*⁵), Orizaba (*Sumichrast*^{9 11}); GUATEMALA, Dueñas⁷, Coban (*O. S. & F. D. G.*); COSTA RICA⁸, Quebrada Honda (*v. Frantzius*¹⁰), San José and Grecia (*Carmirol*¹⁰), Volcan de Cartago (*Arcé*).

Catharus melpomene was originally described from a Mexican specimen (Jalapa), where the species would appear to be not uncommon. In Guatemala we found it in brushwood, both in the tablelands and also in Alta Vera Paz. In the highlands of Costa Rica it seems to be equally abundant. Though the range of the species is probably broken by low-lying land at several points, no important variation has ensued, and we are unable to trace any tangible differences between specimens from most distant localities. There is some variation in the intensity of the colouring of the back, and also in the depth of the cinereous of the underparts; but these variations are not

* P. Z. S. 1854, p. 285, t. lxxv.