

traceable to any special locality, and appear to be simply individual peculiarities. *Catharus melpomene* does not seem to be at all migratory in its habits: we observed its presence the whole year in Guatemala; and specimens were obtained in every month between July<sup>7</sup> and November. M. Boucard found it at Totontepec in January<sup>4</sup>. Its nest is an open structure composed chiefly of moss; the eggs are white, thickly marked with rufous-red. Prof. Sumichrast says<sup>11</sup> that it nests in the gardens of Orizaba; and we found it breeding close to Dueñas in Guatemala. Its habits in Costa Rica seem to resemble those it has in Guatemala. Dr. v. Frantzius says<sup>12</sup> that its monotonous but sweet song may be heard everywhere in the tableland of San José between April and June wherever green hedges line the roads in the neighbourhood of towns. The bird glides quickly through the shrubs, and flies close to the ground across the roads. It is not shy, and allows one to watch it closely.

The eyes, bill, and eyelids of this species are rich orange in the male bird. The maxilla of the female is light horn-colour<sup>7</sup>.

Prof. Baird has suggested<sup>9</sup> that the Costa-Rica bird might be the true *C. aurantii-rostris* of Hartlaub: but this is not the case; for on comparing it with a Venezuelan example in our collection, the absence in the latter of the rufous margins to the wing-feathers, as well as the olivaceous tone of the plumage above, is very apparent. The previous comparison of Mexican specimens with the Venezuelan type by Dr. Hartlaub, as recorded by Mr. Sclater<sup>2</sup>, seems to have been overlooked by subsequent writers.

## 2. *Catharus alticola*, sp. n.

*Catharus frantzii*, Salv. Ibis, 1866, p. 190<sup>1</sup> (nec Cab.).

Supra oleagineo-brunneus; uropygio, alis et cauda concoloribus, pileo paulo rufescentiore; subtus griseus, ventre imo et crisso albis; rostri maxilla cornea, mandibula flava; pedibus pallide corylinis. Long. tota 6.75, alæ 3.5, caudæ 3.0, rostri a rictu 0.9, tarsi 1.4. *Fem.* mari similis.

Similis *C. melpomene*, sed alis extus et corpore supra minus cinnamomeis et rostri et pedum coloribus distinguendus. A *C. frantzii* uropygio et cauda oleagineis nec cinnamomeis notatus.

*Hab.* GUATEMALA, forests of the Volcan de Fuego, from 6000 to 10,000 feet (*O. S. & F. D. G.*).

We obtained a single specimen only of this species during our stay at Dueñas in November 1861; and this example was subsequently<sup>1</sup> referred to the Costa-Rican *C. frantzii*. During Salvin's last visit to Guatemala, he obtained several more specimens, and found the bird not uncommon in the ravines of the Volcan de Fuego and throughout the forests on that mountain almost to the commencement of the growth of pines, at an elevation of 10,200 feet. It was observed usually on the ground, searching amongst leaves for food in the deepest shade of the forest. When standing in a wood-cutter's track, one of these birds would occasionally perch on a log at the side of the path with all the gesture of a Robin (*Erithacus*).