

de Chiriqui, Boqueti de Chitra, Cordillera de Tolé, Calovevora, Calobre, Santa Fé (*Arcé*<sup>3 14</sup>).

Under the name *Merula tristis* Swainson, in 1827, described a Thrush from the highlands of Mexico<sup>1</sup>. The description is so brief that it is hardly to be wondered at that the name was for some time unrecognized or misapplied, and the same species received the new name of *Turdus assimilis* from Dr. Cabanis<sup>5</sup>. As Swainson's type, still existing at Cambridge, shows that the description, so far as it goes, is accurate, *T. tristis* is certainly the right name to use for this Thrush.

It belongs to a southern group of Thrushes, its nearest ally being *T. crotopezus* of Bolivia and South Brazil, from which it differs but little.

Within Mexico and Central America *T. tristis* has a wide range, extending from South Mexico to the State of Panama; but within this area a very considerable amount of variation is observable in a large series of specimens. Mexican individuals which are typical of *T. tristis* have the back olive-brown and a light-coloured tail. In Guatemala, especially in the western parts, birds with a rich olive-brown back are common; but their tails are somewhat darker than those of Mexican specimens. Similar birds also occur at the extreme end of the range of the species, in the State of Panama. In the northern parts of Vera Paz the prevalent form of this Thrush has the back of a blackish ash colour; the white mark on the throat is also more conspicuous than in the Mexican bird, and the black throat-marks more plainly shown. Upon one of these Vera-Paz specimens Mr. Sclater bestowed the name *T. leucauchen*<sup>12</sup>; but from the time the separation was made specimens have been reaching us from various parts showing characters connecting by every stage of transition *T. leucauchen* to *T. tristis*. We have thus been obliged to merge the former name as a synonym of the latter; for it is evident that *T. leucauchen*, though in its extreme form very different from *T. tristis*, is not nearly sufficiently segregated to admit of the two races bearing distinct names. The *T. leucauchen* form is not strictly confined to the forests of Northern Vera Paz, but is found also in Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, but everywhere mingled with birds approaching the *T. tristis* type of colour.

*T. tristis*, as we propose to call all these birds, appears to be by no means an uncommon species in Southern Mexico, as most collectors there have obtained an abundant supply of specimens. Prof. Sumichrast tells us that it has a very extended area of distribution in the State of Vera Cruz, being, however, restricted to the hot and temperate regions below an elevation of about 4300 feet. Though a sedentary bird, he adds, it is not always to be found in the same localities, but changes its residence frequently, influenced by the ripening of the berries upon which it feeds<sup>11</sup>. M. Boucard obtained its eggs in the State of Oaxaca, which Mr. Sclater described as like pale varieties of *T. merula*, being of a pale greenish white, spotted and freckled with two shades of rufous, and measuring 1.1 by 0.75 inch<sup>8</sup>.