

In Guatemala *T. tristis* is seldom absent from the neighbourhood of Dueñas in the plains between the Volcanoes of Agua and Fuego, where *Ipomœa murocoides* abounds. It is there a rather shy bird. We never found its nest, but obtained young birds which had not thrown off their first spotted plumage. In Vera Paz *T. tristis* is by no means common in the vicinity of Coban; but at a lower elevation in the forests that stretch away to the confines of Peten it is very abundant. The bird-collectors of Coban obtain many skins from this district; and we ourselves observed it wherever we went in these forests. Owing, perhaps, to the different character of the vegetation of this part of Vera Paz to what prevails at Dueñas, *T. tristis* is here a strictly forest-loving species. To this cause, too, is probably due the darker colouring of the birds of Vera Paz.

9. *Turdus plebeius*.

Turdus plebejus, Cab. J. f. Orn. 1860, p. 323¹; Lawr. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. ix. p. 91²; v. Frantz. J. f. Orn. 1869, p. 290³.

Sordide fuscus, supra parum olivascenti tinctus, subtus nisi hypochondriis dilutior; subalaribus vix cervinis; rostro nigro, pedibus corylinis. Long. tota 10·5, alæ 5·5, caudæ 4·3, rostri a rictu 1·2, tarsi 1·3. (Descr. maris ex La Palma, Costa Rica. Smiths. Inst. no. 42804. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. COSTA RICA¹, Dota, San José, La Palma (v. *Frantzius*²), Grecia, Cervantes (*Carmirol*³), Volcan de Cartago (*Rogers*).

This plain-coloured Thrush was first described by Dr. Cabanis from Costa-Rica specimens sent by Drs. v. Frantzius, Hoffmann, and Ellendorf to the Berlin Museum. Dr. v. Frantzius has since forwarded skins of it to the Smithsonian Institution; and other collectors in Costa Rica have also met with it, though it would appear to be not so common as some of its congeners. Dr. v. Frantzius tells us it is found in the forests of the mountainous parts of the country at an elevation of from 3000 to 6000 feet above the sea.

Turdus plebeius, though devoid of any striking characters in the markings of its plumage, is nevertheless a well-defined species, its nearest ally being *T. ignobilis* of Ecuador and Colombia. It has the bill black as in that species; and the throat is without the conspicuous patch of white which distinguishes *T. tristis* and its allies. It differs from *T. ignobilis* in its larger size, and in having the whole of the under plumage of the same dull grey-brown colour as the chest, these parts in *T. ignobilis* being nearly white. In his original description of the species, Dr. Cabanis compares *T. plebeius* with *T. amaurochalinus* (i. e. *T. leucomelas*), a bird of the same group as *T. ignobilis*; and this seems to us to be its proper position. The first primary is quite short, as in birds of that group; and the under wing-coverts have a rufous tinge. *T. nigrescens* and *T. chiguaco*, between which *T. plebeius* is placed in the 'Nomenclator Avium Neotropicalium,' have each of them a long first primary, and thus belong to a different section of the genus; and from their immediate vicinity we now think that *T. plebeius* ought to be removed.