

recognize it with certainty, no birds were obtained. Its note much resembles that of *Turdus merula*.

No true Blackbird is found in Costa Rica; but in the Andes of South America, and in the West-Indian island of Tobago, a second species, *Turdus serranus*, is commonly met with. The close relationship of this species and *T. infuscatus* to the Old-World *T. merula* is a curious fact of geographical distribution, and probably indicates the remains of a much wider dissemination of the ancestral *T. merula* in past times, or that a Blackbird inhabiting the high north has been pushed southwards in both America and the Old World by advancing cold, and that, in America at least, these birds have not followed the returning warmth, but have sought a congenial home in the mountains of the south.

D. SEMIMERULA.

Major: ptilosis fere unicolor, fusca aut fusco-nigra. Sexus similes.

17. *Turdus nigrescens*. (Tab. IV.)

Turdus nigrescens, Cab. J. f. Orn. 1860, p. 324¹; Lawr. Ann. Lyc. N. Y. ix. p. 91²; v. Frantz. J. f. Orn. 1869, p. 290³; Salv. P. Z. S. 1870, p. 180⁴.

Brunnescenti-nigrescens, alis et cauda nigricantioribus; subtus paulo dilutior; rostro aurantiaco, pedibus flavis. Long. tota 10.0, alæ 5.5, caudæ 4.5, rostri a rictu 2.2, tarsi 1.4. (Descr. exempl. ex S. Francisco, Costa Rica. Mus. nostr.)

Juv. subtus gula et pectore cervinis nigro maculatis; dorsi plumis medialiter cervino notatis. (Descr. av. juv. ex Volcan de Cartago. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. COSTA RICA, Volcan de Cartago (*Hoffmann*, v. *Frantzius*, *Arcé*, *J. Cooper*), Dota Mountains (*Carmiol*), San Francisco (*Rogers*); PANAMA, Volcan de Chiriqui (*Arcé*).

Turdus nigrescens was first described by Dr. Cabanis from specimens obtained by Dr. Hoffmann in the Volcan de Cartago¹, and, Dr. v. Frantzius tells us, it is found in this volcano at an elevation of from 9000 to 10,000 feet above the sea³. This mountain seems to be the head quarters of the species in Costa Rica, as all collectors who have worked there have obtained specimens. It is, however, also found in the Dota Mountains, which lie at no great distance from Cartago. The only other locality in which it has been obtained is the volcano of Chiriqui, whence several specimens have been sent us by Arcé⁴.

This Thrush seems to belong to a South-American section of the genus, found in the Andes from Colombia to the neighbourhood of Mendoza, the best-known species of which is *Turdus gigas*. It is, however, a well-marked species, and only remotely allied to its next of kin. The sexes present scarcely any difference in plumage.