

Melanoptila glabrirostris was a much wished-for species that long eluded our observation in Guatemala; and it was not until the early part of May 1862 that it was at last found to be not uncommon on some of the islands of the outermost of the coral reefs which line the coast of British Honduras. Several specimens were obtained on Half-moon Cay on Lighthouse reef; and it was observed on Northern two Cays, Long Cay and Middle Cay (islands of the same reef), and also on Glover's reef, which lies to the southward of Lighthouse reef. In its actions and flight *M. glabrirostris* much resembles a Mocking-bird (*Mimus*); and it has a short but sweet song. It is said to lay blue eggs; so that Mr. Sclater's suggestion as to the position of the species amongst the Mocking-birds seems to be correct, and the genus may be placed next to *Galeoscoptes*, from which it mainly differs in the colour and texture of its plumage.

Since our specimens were obtained we have received two examples from the neighbourhood of Corosal on the mainland of British Honduras. These were sent home in spirits by Mr. Roe in a small collection of birds from that place.

MELANOTIS.

Melanotis, Bonaparte, Consp. Av. i. p. 276 (1850); Baird, Rev. Am. B. i. p. 56. (Type *Orpheus cærulescens*, Sw.)

A genus of two species peculiar to Mexico and the highlands of Guatemala, each district having a species to itself. Prince Bonaparte first removed the Mexican species from the genus *Orpheus* (vel *Mimus*), in which Swainson had placed it, and made a new genus, *Melanotis*, for its reception, giving, however, no characters. This deficiency has been supplied by Prof. Baird, who has fully described the external form. *Melanotis* seems most nearly allied to *Galeoscoptes* and *Melanoptila*, having, however, several characters by which it may be recognized. The young of *Melanotis*, as shown by examples of young *M. hypoleucus*, have the back unspotted in the first plumage—a fact which may help to determine the position of the genus and its allies at some future day.

1. *Melanotis cærulescens*.

Orpheus cærulescens, Swains. Phil. Mag. new ser. i. p. 369¹.

Mimus cærulescens, Scl. P. Z. S. 1856, p. 294².

Melanotis cærulescens, Scl. P. Z. S. 1859, pp. 362³, 370⁴; Baird, Rev. Am. B. p. 56⁵; Grayson, Proc. Bost. Soc. N. H. xiv. p. 275⁶; Lawr. Mem. Bost. Soc. N. H. ii. p. 266⁷; Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. No. 4, p. 12⁸; Sumichrast, Mem. Bost. Soc. N. H. i. p. 543⁹.

Turdus melanotis, Temm. Pl. Col. 498¹⁰.

Turdus erythrophthalmus, Licht. Preis-Verz. mex. Vög. p. 2 (1830), cf. J. f. Orn. 1863, p. 57¹¹.

Schistaceo-cærulescens; capitis lateribus, loris et gula nigris; gutturi plumis elongatis, rostro et pedibus nigris. Long. tota 10·5, alæ 4·5, caudæ 5·2, rostri a rictu 1·3, tarsi 1·2. (Descr. exempl. ex Jalapa, S. Mexico. Mus. nostr.)