

Hab. MEXICO^{1 10}, Mazatlan, Tepic (*Grayson*^{6 7}), Tres Marias Is. (*Grayson*^{6 7}), plains of Colima (*Xantus*⁷), Sierra Madre near Zapotitlan (*Sumichrast*⁸), Oaxaca (*Fenochio*), Talea, Juquila, Villa Alta, and Totontepec (*Boucard*⁴), Jalapa (*Deppe*¹¹, *de Oca*³), Temascaltepec (*Deppe*¹¹), Cordova (*Sallé*²), State of Vera Cruz (*Sumichrast*⁹), Orizaba (*le Strange*), Mirador (*Sartorius*⁵).

A specimen from Bullock's Mexican collection, still extant in the Cambridge Museum, formed the basis of Swainson's description of *Orpheus cærulescens*, published in 1827¹. The same species was afterwards described by Temminck as *Turdus melanotis* in 1830¹⁰; and in the same year Lichtenstein bestowed the title of *Turdus erythrophthalmus* upon specimens in the Berlin Museum obtained at Jalapa and Temascaltepec by Deppe¹¹. The species has now been long known under Swainson's name.

Melanotis cærulescens is widely dispersed in Mexico, being found from Mazatlan to Tehuantepec. Except in the far north-western part of its range, it is usually an inhabitant of the temperate region; but in the State of Vera Cruz, according to Prof. Sumichrast⁹, it passes beyond these limits into the hot region and into the alpine region as high as 4300 feet. Grayson, who found it at the sea-level in the Tres Marias Islands, gives the following account of its habits there:—

“One of the most abundant as well as interesting song-birds of the Marias. They are tame and confiding, allowing persons to approach very near them, often following me in the woods, evincing considerable curiosity, and uttering mimicking cries, and occasionally breaking out into the richest song, awaking the echoes of the silent woods. Like the true Mocking-bird (*Mimus polyglottus*), this bird is solitary in its habits, showing great aversion to the companionship of its own species; and combats between them are very frequent. The notes of this bird are full and melodious; at all seasons of the year the woods are enlivened by its mellow song; and during the spring, or love-season, it is particularly so. They make excellent cage-birds, are easily kept, and soon become reconciled to their prison, even when taken at an adult age.

“They inhabit the densest forests and thickets, spending much of their time upon the ground, turning up the leaves with their bills in search of insects.”

2. *Melanotis hypoleucus*.

Melanotis hypoleucus, Hartl. Rev. Zool. 1852, p. 460¹; Scl. P. Z. S. 1859, p. 337²; Scl. & Salv. Ibis, 1859, p. 7³, 1860, p. 29⁴; Ex. Orn. p. 85, t. 43⁵; Baird, Rev. Am. B. p. 57⁶.

Schistaceo-cærulescens, capitis lateribus nigris; subtus nisi crisso et hypochondriis albus; rostro et pedibus nigris. Long. tota 10·5, alæ 4·3, caudæ 5·0, rostri a rictu 1·35, tarsi 1·3. (Descr. exempl. ex San Gerónimo, Vera Paz. Mus. nostr.)

Juv. plumis corporis subtus fusco-nigro et albo commixtis, rostri mandibula flava. (Descr. juv. ex Dueñas, Guatemala. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. GUATEMALA¹, Dueñas^{3 4 5}, Godines, San Gerónimo, Coban (*O. S. & F. D. G.*).