

This species was first described in 1852 by Dr. Hartlaub, from a specimen sent to the Hamburg Museum by M. Gadechens¹; and since that time numerous examples have been transmitted to Europe, most of them from the vicinity of Coban, in Vera Paz. *Melanotis hypoleucus* is a common bird in the neighbourhood of Dueñas, where it is resident throughout the year. It frequents the thick bushes and underwood on the banks of the Rio Guacalate and the borders of the open land near Dueñas. It is a shy bird, skulking to elude observation, and never flying far in the open. During the greater part of the year its song is rather disjointed and short; but as the breeding-season approaches in May and June it improves, and is then of fair quality, containing a few rich notes. The breeding-season would seem to spread over a considerable period. We found nests with eggs about the end of May; two months later, on the 23rd July, a young bird was shot that had just left the nest; and in the middle of September another young bird was obtained, hardly more advanced than the first. The nest, which is usually placed in a thicket, about 9 or 10 feet from the ground, is a very slight structure, composed of small twigs and lined with fine roots. The usual complement of eggs is three; these are of a uniform greenish-blue colour, and rather elongated in shape, measuring 1.17 inch by .8. The food of *M. hypoleucus* consists chiefly of berries; but as it is also frequently in the habit of scratching about the roots of trees and among dead leaves, insects and their larvæ are probably included in its diet.

Melanotis hypoleucus, though restricted in its range to Guatemala, is a well-known and common bird in the highlands of that country. The lowest district where we met with it was the neighbourhood of San Gerónimo in the plain of Salamá, which lies at an elevation of about 3000 feet above the sea. Near Coban, at an altitude of about 4500 feet, it is also common. Of its abundance at Dueñas (altitude 4900 feet) we have already spoken. It was also observed in some numbers on the road which skirts the north side of the Lake of Atitlan, near Godines, at a height of not less than 7000 feet above the sea. It will thus be seen that *M. hypoleucus* has, as a rule, a much more elevated range than its congener *M. cærulescens*, which is found at the sea-level in some parts of Mexico.

HARPORHYNCHUS.

Toxostoma, Wagler, Isis, 1831, p. 528 (nec Rafin.). (Type *Orpheus curvirostris*, Sw.)

Harpes, Gambel, Pr. Ac. Phil. 1845, p. 264 (nec Goldfuss). (Type *Harpes redivivus*, Gamb.)

Harporhynchus, Cabanis, Arch. f. Nat. xiii. p. 323 (1847).

This peculiar genus consists of about eight or nine well-marked species, several of which have been subdivided into geographical races or varieties. The head quarters of the genus seems to be the basin of the Colorado, outlying species being found in Lower California (*H. cinereus*), the Eastern States (*H. rufus*), and in the coast region of Cali-