

position of this anomalous form entertained by these two ornithologists rendering the recognition of the two birds as sexes of one species less easy, Lesson having placed his bird in the genus *Furnarius*, Dr. Hartlaub the bird he described in the genus *Turdus*, the distribution of the colours and, to some extent, the form suggesting to his mind a resemblance to the African genus *Cossypha*. For many years Lesson's views were usually adopted; but latterly its relationship to the Turdidæ has been recognized partly from a reexamination of the external form and partly from the discovery of the vocal powers of the bird. There can now be but little doubt that *Rhodinocichla* must be considered an aberrant Thrush or Wren, its affinity being, perhaps, nearer the latter family.

The range of *R. rosea* is somewhat singular. In the State of Panama it seems to be, as in Venezuela and Colombia, a very common bird. In Costa Rica its presence has been recorded; and that is all that can be said concerning it. Mr. Sclater's statement of the existence of a Guatemalan specimen in the Derby Museum at Liverpool is all that we know of the presence of the species in that country; for, of the thousands of skins we have examined from there, we have never met with a single example of *R. rosea* \*. It has never been detected in Southern Mexico; but in North-western Mexico it has been noticed by both Grayson and Xantus. It is to the former of these travellers that we owe the chief note on the habits of the species. He says that it is found near Mazatlan in the thickly wooded district bordering the river, where it remains throughout the year concealing itself in the densest bush, its voluptuous and melodious song being often heard when the bird is invisible. Bridges also<sup>4</sup> speaks of having had his attention attracted to the single bird he obtained at David by its very peculiar note.

#### Subfam. MYIADECTINÆ.

#### MYIADECTES.

*Myiadestes*, Swainson, Nat. Libr. Ornith. x. p. 132 (1838). (Type *M. genibarbis*, Sw.)

The position of this group of birds was long a matter of considerable doubt; for though *Myiadectes* was placed by some systematists in the family Ampelidæ with *Ptilogonys* and *Phainopepla*, it was felt that the many points of difference from those genera possessed by it rendered its removal from their vicinity only a matter of time.

In 1866 Prof. Baird made a careful and exhaustive examination of the external form of *Myiadectes* when writing his 'Review of American Birds;' and though he placed it in the family Ampelidæ, he clearly pointed out the great affinity the genus has to the Turdidæ, suggesting its removal into that family in any remodelling of these groups of birds. This plan has now been pretty generally adopted; and recent writers on American birds place *Myiadectes* either as a subfamily of the Turdidæ or in the Sylviidæ, two

\* Mr. Moore informs us that this specimen was purchased of Leadbeater in 1844. It bears a ticket with "Guatimala" written on it in an unknown handwriting.