

families of very artificial limits, no very trenchant characters being found to separate them. To the Muscicapidæ *Myiadectes* also has a certain resemblance, especially when the form of the bill and the development of the rictal bristles are considered; of Muscicapidæ, the West-African genus *Cassinia* is that which *Myiadectes* most calls to mind. The characters *Myiadectes* has in common with the Turdidæ are the spotted first plumage of the young, the tarso-metatarsus covered with single plate in front, the long pointed wings, and the great vocal powers of all members of the genus.

About ten species are included in the genus, all of which are very uniform in their general appearance, though differing considerably in colour. They are distributed from the Rocky Mountains through Central America to Bolivia; and several of the West-Indian Islands possess species peculiar to them. In the north *M. townsendi* is found, a species which may cross into Northern Mexico. Mexico and Guatemala have two species in common; and in Costa Rica another is found. A single species, if we except the aberrant *M. leucotis*, ranges throughout the Andes from Venezuela to Bolivia. Cuba and Jamaica have each a species peculiar to them; and one is reported from San Domingo, but has not yet been obtained. The Lesser Antilles have three other species, all closely allied to the Jamaican bird.

The peculiar songs of the various species of *Myiadectes* have always excited attention. Those of *M. obscurus* and *M. unicolor*, with which we are familiar, may be likened in tone to pouring water into a tin vessel. The habit of the birds is to sit almost motionless on a branch in thick underwood, the males uttering their song at intervals chiefly in the morning and evening. *M. townsendi* is described as sometimes running on the ground*, a habit never observed by us in the Guatemalan birds. The food of *Myiadectes* seems to consist chiefly of fruit; but *M. townsendi* devours insects also.

1. *Myiadectes obscurus*.

Myiadestes obscurus, Lafr. Rev. Zool. 1839, p. 98¹; Scl. P. Z. S. 1857, p. 213², 1858, p. 302³, 1859, pp. 363⁴, 376⁵; Scl. & Salv. Ibis, 1859, p. 14⁶; Ex. Orn. p. 49, t. 25⁷; Baird, Rev. Am. B. p. 430⁸; Sumichrast, Bost. Soc. N. H. i. p. 548⁹; Grayson, Pr. Bost. Soc. N. H. xiv. p. 277¹⁰; Lawr. Mem. Bost. Soc. N. H. ii. p. 273¹¹.

Hypothyrius cæsia, Mus. Berol.¹²

Schistaceus; oculorum ambitu albo, loris et striga rictali nigris; alis fusco-nigris, extus rufo limbatis; interscapulio pallidus rufo; dorso imo olivaceo perfuso; subtus dilute schistaceus, gutture et ventre medio cum crisso albicantibus; remigum macula magna interna ochraceo-alba; cauda nigricante, rectricibus duabus mediis cum unius utrinque proximæ pogonio externo griseis; rectricibus lateralibus albo terminatis; harum unius utrinque extimæ dimidio apicali pallide griseo notato; rostro nigro, pedibus fuscis. Long. tota 7·5, alæ 4·0, caudæ 4·1, rostri a rictu ·75, tarsi ·9. (Descr. exempl. ex Jalapa, Mexico. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. MEXICO¹, Tres Marias Is. (*Grayson*^{10 11}), Tonila and Jalisco (*Xantus*¹¹), Real Ariba (*Deppe*), Orizaba (*Botteri*², *Sumichrast*⁹), Jalapa (*de Oca*⁴), La Parada³, Yoletepec⁵

* Coues, B. Coll. Vall. i. p. 45.