

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

MUTANDA ORNITHOLOGICA.

XI.

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Six thrushes belonging to the genus now commonly called *Merula* Leach or *Planesticus* Bonaparte have need of a change of name.¹ These alterations in nomenclature are detailed below.

The genus *Turdus* was first instituted by Linnæus (Syst. Nat. ed. 10, I, 1758, p. 168) to include a group of 16 species, none of which can be considered the type by either tautonymy or original designation. The type of this genus has commonly been considered to be *Turdus viscivorus* Linnæus, as designated by Gray (List Genera Birds, 1840, p. 27). The first author, however, so far as we are aware, definitely to designate the type for this group was Selby (Illust. Brit. Ornith., text of Land Birds, pt. 1, 1825, p. xxix), who selected the English Blackbird, *Turdus merula* Linnæus. It thus becomes necessary to transfer the generic name *Turdus* from the group to which it has commonly been applied, to the group now known as *Merula* Leach, or more properly, *Planesticus* Bonaparte. By this change the species now commonly placed in the group called *Turdus* will take for their generic name *Arceuthornis* Kaup (Skizz. Entwick.-Gesch. Natürl. Syst. Eur. Thierw., 1829, p. 93; type by subsequent designation, *Turdus pilaris* Linnæus). This transfer of the generic name *Turdus* to *Merula* (*Planesticus*) causes the preoccupation of several specific and subspecific names in the group, and it is of interest to note that these preoccupations occur whether or not the genus *Turdus* (olim *Merula* or *Planesticus*) is recognized as distinct from *Arceuthornis* (olim *Turdus*).

FAMILY TURDIDAE.

Merula albifrons Ramsay.

By the above explained change of the generic term *Merula* to *Turdus*, *Merula albifrons* of Ramsay (Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales, ser. 1,

¹For the ten preceding articles in this series, cf. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XXX, pp. 75-76; 125-126; XXXI, pp. 47-49; 125-126; XXXII, pp. 7-8; 21-22; 127-128; 239-240; XXXIII, pp. 83-84; XXXIV, pp. 49-50.

III, pt. 4, 1879, p. 336; "mountainous parts of the island of Eromanga, New Hebrides") becomes preoccupied by *Turdus albifrons* Gmelin (Syst. Nat., I, ii, 1789 [not after April 20], p. 822; "Nova Seelandia"), which is now known as *Miro albifrons* (Gmelin). Since *Merula albifrons* Ramsay has apparently no synonym, it may be known as ***Turdus proleucus***, nom. nov.

***Merula tristis* Swainson.**

Since *Merula tristis* Swainson (Philos. Mag., new ser., I, No. V, May, 1827, p. 369; [Temiscaltipeec, Mexico]) now takes *Turdus* for its generic name, it needs also a new subspecific name, for it thus becomes preoccupied by *Turdus tristis* Müller (Vollst. Natursyst., Suppl., 1776, p. 145; "Senegal"), which is a questionable synonym of *Pycnonotus xanthopygus*. As no name seems to be left for *Merula tristis* Swainson, we propose ***Turdus assimilis lygrus*** nobis. Since *Merula tristis* is no longer available as a specific term, the oldest tenable name among the races of this species becomes *Turdus assimilis* Cabanis (Mus. Hein., I, 1850, p. 4; "Xalapa"), and the forms of the species will now stand as follows:

Turdus assimilis assimilis Cabanis.
Turdus assimilis lygrus Oberholser.
Turdus assimilis cnephosa (Bangs).
Turdus assimilis leucauchen Sclater.

***Merula grayi lurida* (Bonaparte).**

The *Planesticus luridus* of Bonaparte (*Pl [anesticus]. luridus* Bonaparte, Comptes Rendus Acad. Sci., XXXVIII, No. 1, January 9, 1854, p. 4, in text of footnote; "Nouvelle Grenade"), when used in combination with the generic name *Turdus*, is preoccupied by *Turdus luridus* Hermann (Observ. Zool., 1804, p. 202; [no locality]). Its earliest available name, therefore, is *Merula incompta* Bangs (Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., XII, June 3, 1898, p. 144; "Santa Marta, Colombia"), which Dr. C. E. Hellmayr (Journ. f. Ornith., 1902, pp. 50, 52) considers of identical application. The proper name for this bird therefore becomes *Turdus grayi incomptus* (Bangs).

***Merula bicolor* Layard.**

The transference of the generic name *Turdus* to *Merula*, in so far as it concerns *Merula bicolor* Layard (Ibis, ser. 3, Vol. VI, No. XXII, April, 1876, p. 153; [Kandavu Island, Fiji Islands]) renders the specific name of this species invalid on account of *Turdus bicolor* Gmelin (Syst. Nat., I, ii, 1789 [not after April 20], p. 835; "Caput Bonae spei"), which is now *Spreo bicolor* (Gmelin). Its next available name is *Merula ruficeps* Ramsay (Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales, ser. 1, I, pt. 1, 1876, p. 43; "Fiji Islands"), and it will therefore now stand as *Turdus ruficeps* (Ramsay).

***Merula flavirostris* Swainson.**

When *Merula flavirostris* Swainson (Philos. Mag., new ser., I, No. V, May, 1827, p. 369; "[Temiscaltipeec] Mexico") becomes *Turdus flavirostris* (Swainson), it is ineligible for use on account of *Turdus flavirostris* Horsfield

(Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond., XIII, pt. 1, May, 1821, p. 149; "Java"), which latter is now *Myophonus flavirostris* (Horsfield). There is, however, an available name in *Turdus rofo-palliatus* [sic] Lafresnaye (Rev. Zool., III, No. 9, September, 1840, p. 259; "Monterey en Californie"), and we may therefore call the species *Turdus rofopalliatus* Lafresnaye. As the locality given in the original description, Monterey, California, is, of course, erroneous, it seems advisable now to select a proper type locality, and we hereby designate Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico, as such, since the specimen from which Lafresnaye prepared his description was collected by Leclancher during the voyage of the "Venus."

***Merula cinerascens* Reichenow.**

Another specific name that becomes invalid by the change of *Merula* to *Turdus* is *Merula cinerascens* Reichenow (Ornith. Monatsber., VI, No. 5, May, 1898, p. 82; "Tabora und Kakoma im Innern Deutsch Ost Afrika"), since it thereby becomes preoccupied by *Turdus cinerascens* Latham (Ind. Ornith., I, 1790, p. 352; "India"). Since it has no other available name, we propose that it be known as ***Turdus tephrinus***, nom. nov.



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