TURDUS RUFICOLLIS, Pall.

J. Gould and H.C. Richter del & lith.

Hallman del & Walton Imp.

TURDUS RUFICOLLIS, *Pall.*

Red-throated Thrush.

- Turdus ruficollis*, Pall. Reise, tom. iii. p. 694.—Ib. Zoog., tom. i. p. 452. tab. 23.—Lath. Ind. Orn., vol. i. p. 333.
—Gmel. Edit. Linn. Syst. Nat., tom. i. p. 815.—Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. i. p. 219, *Turdus*,
sp. 20.—Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., p. 273, *Turdus*, sp. 37.—Cat. of Spec. and Draw. of Mamm. and
Birds presented to the Brit. Mus. by B. H. Hodgson, Esq., p. 81.—Blyth, Cat. of Birds in Mus. Asiat.
Soc. Calcutta, p. 141.—Hodgs. in Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng., vol. xvi. p. 143.
Red-necked Thrush, Lath. Gen. Syn., vol. iii. p. 31.—Shaw, Gen. Zool., vol. x. p. 278.—Lath. Gen. Hist., vol. v.
p. 27.
Turdus erythrura, Hodgs. in Gray's Zool. Misc., p. 83?

I HAVE the pleasure of figuring on the accompanying Plate another of the little-known birds discovered and described by Pallas. The specimens from which the drawing was taken were lent to me by Dr. Hartlaub, and the other Directors of the Museum at Bremen, who had received them from St. Petersburg. I mention this because some differences are found between the Russian specimens and those from the highlands of northern India, the latter being of a larger size, having the rufous colouring of the throat and breast much darker, approaching in fact to chestnut; many of them also have a series of dark spots running down each side of the throat, and the outer tail-feathers slightly margined with blackish brown. It has been hinted by some ornithologists, and asserted by others, that the *Turdus ruficollis* and *T. atrogularis* are one and the same species; and I must say, that on examining the specimens in the British Museum, I was half inclined to consider them identical myself. In the size of the bill, in the length of the wings and tail, and in the colouring of the crown of the head and back, they are precisely alike; but these points of agreement are insufficient to prove that these two birds, so very oppositely coloured in every other respect, are one and the same; and Mr. Hodgson, who has had ample opportunities for observation in the Himalayas, remarks, that *T. ruficollis* is "nearly allied to *T. atrogularis*, but differs in having the neck, breast, supercilium, fore part of the under surface of the wing, and the tail, except at the tip, rufous." In the Bremen specimens I find no trace of the streak of darker feathers on the sides of the neck, the colouring of which is much lighter or of a more sandy red than in the Indian birds, and, as before stated, they are also of a smaller size. The Russian specimens of *T. atrogularis* are also smaller than individuals killed in the Himalayas, and I have never seen a specimen of this latter species with any other than uniform blackish brown tail-feathers; if I had, I should have become a convert to the opinion of those who consider the two birds to constitute but a single species.

The following notes respecting this species, kindly transmitted to me by M. Middendorff, of St. Petersburg, will be read with interest:—

"I first met with small flocks of this bird during the second week in April, near the River Aldan in south-eastern Siberia, at about 60½° north latitude. They were mingled with and passing through flocks of *Turdus fuscatus*. About the end of April they began to couple. They frequented the densest branches of the coniferous and other trees, and while perched on the tops of the lofty larches the males gave utterance to sweet songs which recalled to my memory the melody of our *Turdus musicus*. Upon proceeding still farther into the country in a south-eastern direction, I lost sight of this interesting bird, and it is to be presumed that it does not occur on the eastern slope of the Stanowój range."

Pallas states that he frequently observed it in the lofty larch-forests of Dauria, especially in the neighbourhood of the River "Condam," passing in vast flocks to its winter-quarters, to which hunger compelled it to proceed through the snow-storms. At other times it dwells in the densest and most remote solitudes of the forest.

Head, all the upper surface and wings greyish brown; lores, superciliary stripe and throat light chestnut; breast, abdomen and under tail-coverts white; two central tail-feathers brown; lateral tail-feathers rufous, becoming browner towards their margins; bill olive-yellow, passing into black at the tip; feet flesh-colour.

The figures are of the natural size.

Gould, John. 1852. "Red-throated Thrush, *Turdus ruficollis*, Pali. [Pl. 2]." *The Birds of Asia* 3(IV), -. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.323183>.

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