

THRUSHES, SHORT-WINGS, CHATS, REDSTARTS AND ROBINS

Family TURDIDÆ

Vol. I., p. 232; Vol. II., p. 219.

IN the fact that the juvenile plumages are spotted the thrushes show affinity with the flycatchers. On the other hand, some of the genera merge into the great family of babblers, the *Timaliidæ*, and as a family the thrushes are, therefore, not easy to define, although it can be said that they differ from members of the two preceding families in that the legs and feet are more robust, and the nostrils are not concealed by feathers. Furthermore, the birds are usually more terrestrial in their habits.

The bill is short, and at the base there are usually rictal bristles, although not very strongly developed. The wing has ten primaries of which the first feather may be very short. The tail varies in shape, and has twelve or fourteen feathers. The eggs are variable. In some species they are pure white or pale blue; in other species the shell is heavily spotted.

Most thrushes are rather dull in plumage, but in some tropical species the colours are very bright. Very young birds are always spotted. Many thrushes are beautiful songsters.

The family is very large, and is represented in most parts of the world: many of the species are migratory.

The following key to the sub-families, extracted from Vol. I., is very artificial, as Robinson pointed out, and does little more than provide convenient divisions, or chapter-headings, within a large, heterogeneous assembly, although in the present state of our knowledge of the classification of the *Passeres* (perching birds) no better scheme can be put forward.

KEY TO THE SUB-FAMILIES

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| I | { | Wing very short and rounded; tail
never more than two-thirds the
length of the wing, usually less | } | <i>Brachypteryginæ</i> (short-wings),
p. 308 |
| I | { | Wing longer and more pointed; tail
never less than half the length of
the wing, usually more | } | 2 |

- 2 { Tail deeply forked, middle pair of feathers shortest *Enicurinæ* (forktails), p. 309
- { Tail square or rounded 3
- 3 { Bill rather broad at base; rictal bristles strong; habits *Muscicapine* *Saxicolinæ* (chats), p. 311
- { Bill not so broad at base; rictal bristles moderate; habits largely terrestrial. 4
- 4 { Tail very strongly bicoloured . . . *Phænicurinæ* (redstarts, robins, etc.), p. 311
- { Tail not markedly bicoloured . . . *Turdinæ* (thrushes), p. 314

In the following key I have included all the local forms hitherto found in the lowlands, and have tried to use characters likely to be useful in field recognition.

KEY TO THE MALAYAN LOWLAND THRUSHES AND THEIR ALLIES

- 1 { Large blue-black birds: jay-size 2
- { Small birds: sparrow-size or less 3
- { The remainder 5
- 2 { Black with slight blue gloss *Myiophonus flavirostris dicrorhynchus*, p. 314
- { Plumage much bluer; forehead entirely blue } *Myiophonus flavirostris crassirostris*, p. 314
- 3 { Rump (female) and entire upper parts (male), pale blue *Larvivora cyane*, p. 308
- { Plumage mostly black *Saxicola caprata* (male), p. 311
- { Throat, black *Saxicola torquata stejnegeri* (male), p. 311
- { Not as above 4
- 4 { Under parts, orange-buff *Saxicola torquata stejnegeri* (female), p. 311
- { Under parts, dark brown *Saxicola caprata* (female), p. 311
- 5 { Under parts conspicuously spotted or squamated 6
- { Under parts uniform or parti-coloured 10
- 6 { Throat, deep black; breast, squamated *Hydrocichla ruficapilla*, p. 309
- { Throat and breast, deep black; abdomen spotted *Geokichla interpres* (adult), p. 317
- { Throat not black 7

	A very conspicuous broad white eye-stripe	} <i>Geokichla sibirica</i> subssp. (male), p. 316	
7			With visible conspicuous white patches on the wing or throat
	With no white eye-stripe or visible white patches on throat or wing		9
	Top of head, chestnut	<i>Geokichla interpres</i> (immature), p. 317	
8	Top of head, pale blue	<i>Monticola gularis</i> (male), p. 318	
	Top of head, olive-brown	<i>Monticola gularis</i> (female), p. 318	
	Upper parts, blue or tinged with blue	<i>Monticola solitaria</i> subssp., p. 318	
9	Upper parts, uniform olive-brown	<i>Geokichla sibirica</i> subssp. (female), p. 316	
	Upper parts, pale brown with heavy blackish squamation	<i>Oreocincla dauma dauma</i> , p. 317	
	Under parts, black (or grey) and white		11
10	Under parts at least partly chestnut or rufous		12
	Crown, white	<i>Hydrocichla frontalis</i> , p. 309	
11	Crown, blue-black	<i>Copsychus saularis musicus</i> , p. 312	
	Tail, bright chestnut, tipped with black	<i>Trichixus pyrropygus</i> , p. 313	
12	Crown, orange-rufous	<i>Geokichla c. citrina</i> , p. 316	
	Not as above		13
	Chin to upper breast, solidly black or grey, sharply defined	} <i>Kittacincla malabarica tricolor</i> , p. 312	
13	Not as above		<i>Turdus obscurus obscurus</i> , p. 316

Sub-family BRACHYPTERYGINÆ

Short-wings

THE members of this association are small birds of terrestrial habits. There are only two Malayan species, of which one, a resident, is strictly confined to the mountains where, in the Peninsula, it is represented by northern and southern subspecies. The other species, mentioned below, is a bird of passage in Malaya.

Larvivora cyane

The Siberian Blue Chat

Vol. I., p. 233; Vol. II., p. 220.

This small chat has a very short tail and long, slender legs. The sexes differ, strikingly, in colour. Males are dark blue above and entirely white below, with a longitudinal black stripe separating the two colour zones on the neck. Females are olive-brown above, tinged with blue on the rump and tail.

The under parts are whitish, with a wash of yellowish buff on the breast and flanks. The breast is also indistinctly squamated with brown.

Total length, about 5·5 in. ; wing, 3 in.

As a winter visitor to the Peninsula, this bird is common on the small islands in the Straits of Malacca and on the hills of the mainland from September onwards. It is much rarer in the lowlands where, as in the case of so many other migratory species, its stay seems of very limited duration.

Sub-family ENICURINÆ

Forktails

THESE handsome fork-tailed birds, in which the plumage is black, or grey, and white, sometimes set off by patches of bright chestnut, are found in the vicinity of swiftly flowing forest streams. Three species, all strictly resident, inhabit the Malay Peninsula, but one is confined to the mountains. The evidence for the occurrence of the fourth species mentioned by Robinson is very weak and, pending confirmation, I suggest that it be ignored.

Hydrocichla ruficapilla

The Chestnut-backed Forktail

Vol. I., p. 235; Vol. II., p. 224, pl. 19.

Males have the top of the head and nape bright chestnut ; the forehead, rump, a bar across the wings, and the abdomen, white ; the back, wings and throat, black ; the tail, black and white ; and the breast, white squamated with black. Females differ in that the back is chestnut like the crown, not black.

Total length, about 8 in. ; wing, 3·5 in.

This forktail is common in most parts of the Peninsula where there is country suited to its requirements, that is to say, where clear streams from the hills debouch in the lowlands. It avoids swamp jungle.

Eggs have been found by Messrs G. C. Madoc and V. W. Ryves in April, September and December. They measure about 0·90 by 0·68 in. One nest was plastered in a niche in an overhanging rock, eight feet above the water. Another was in a deep recess in a boulder, three feet above the water and completely concealed by an overhanging fern.

Hydrocichla frontalis

The White-crowned Forktail

Vol. II., p. 224.

Enicurus frontalis Blyth, *Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, xvi., 1847, p. 156 (Malacca).

Hydrocichla frontalis, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vii., 1883, p. 321 ; Oates, *Faun. Brit. Ind., Birds*, ii., 1890, p. 87 ; Stuart Baker, *Faun. Brit.*

Ind., Birds (2nd ed.), ii., 1924, p. 64; Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 310.

Malay Name.—Burong chëgar.

Description.—Plumage, entirely black and white. Crown, rump and a bar across the wing, white; mantle, breast and wings, black. Tail, very deeply forked. Feathers on the crown, especially on the hinder crown, slightly elongated to form a crest.

Adult.—Sexes alike. Forehead and crown, lower back, rump and upper tail coverts, white. Chin to breast, remainder of head, neck all round, mantle and back, black; the edges of the feathers on the hinder edge of the breast and mantle often finely ticked with white; remainder of under parts, white. Wings, black, the tips of the inner greater coverts, the base and tips of the inner secondaries and the whole of the innermost secondary, white. Two outer pairs of tail feathers, white; next pair, white with a median patch of black; other feathers, black with white tips. Outer axillaries, white, those nearest the body black with white tips; edge of the wing and under wing coverts, black, the latter with a big white patch over the base of the primaries.

Immature.—The youngest bird I have seen is fully fledged. It is brownish black, where the adult is black, and the white on the head is reduced to a small patch on the forehead. There are a few thin white streaks on the breast. According to Oates there is, at first, no white at all on the head. I have never seen a nestling.

Soft Parts.—Iris, brown; bill, black; feet, whitish or pinkish flesh.

Dimensions.—Total length, 8·2 to 8·7 in.; tail, 3·3 to 3·8 in.; wing, 3·4 to 3·6 in.; tarsus, 1·2 in.; bill from gape, 1 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—From the northern limit down both sides of the Peninsula, south to Pahang and Mt Ophir on the Malacca-Johore boundary. Junk Zeylon.

Extralimital Range.—Extends northwards to South Tenasserim, but on the Siamese side of the Peninsula apparently not yet obtained north of Bandon. Sumatra, and the island of Nias off the west coast of Sumatra. Borneo. The typical race inhabits Java and Bali, and another form in the mountains of Borneo should probably be regarded as a subspecies. Other closely related forms are found from Sikkim to South China.

Nidification.—Unknown.

Habits.—A bird of the swiftly flowing streams in the forests of the foothills and the adjacent lowlands, and not often found above about 2000 ft. It is common at low elevations on the Negri Sembilan hills, and widely spread but rather less common in other localities in the Malay States, especially in the south. Long stretches of boulder-strewn streams flowing through old forest usually harbour a few pairs of these birds, which are sometimes seen in close company with the chestnut-backed fork-tail. It is an energetic, conspicuous species, and I have never seen it away from the rather narrow waterways on the upper reaches of the rivers.

Sub-family SAXICOLINÆ

Stonechats

Vol. I., p. 236.

IN the Malay Peninsula this family is poorly represented by two small species about the size of the English stonechat.

I include here notice of one of these, the black stonechat (*Saxicola caprata* subsp.), solely on Robinson's statement that it is a sporadic visitor to the Malay Peninsula, but I have not yet discovered the specimens or records on which this statement is based.

In this species the male is entirely black, except for white patches on the rump, the inner wing coverts and the under tail coverts. Females are pale sooty brown, brightening to rufous on the rump. The under parts are rather paler brown, with obsolete dark streaks and a faint rufous suffusion on the abdomen. Under tail coverts nearly white.

Total length, about 5·4 in. ; wing, 2·7 in.

The species is common in Burma, and breeds as far south as Pegu.

*Saxicola torquata stejnegeri***The Japanese Stonechat**

This chat is not uncommon in Peninsular Siam during the winter months, but it is much more numerous farther north in Siam. In the Malay States it is a rare bird, and in the extreme south of the Peninsula it can only be regarded as a very rare, accidental straggler. The breeding-grounds are in Siberia, Japan, etc.

In winter the adult male has the head, throat, back, wings and tail, black with narrow brownish fringes. The sides of the neck, the inner wing coverts and rump are largely white. The under parts are pale rufous, deepest in colour on the breast, and palest, almost cream-colour, on the centre of the abdomen. Females are rather different. The upper parts are brown heavily streaked with blackish ; rump, pale rufous. The under parts are pale buff faintly tinged with rufous, most so on the breast.

Length, about 5·5 in. ; wing, 2·7 in.

Sub-family PHÆNICURINÆ

Redstarts, Robins and Shamas

Vol. I., p. 236; Vol. II., p. 224.

CLOSELY allied to the true thrushes (*Turdinæ*), the members of this sub-family usually have rather longer and more slender legs. From the more soberly clad thrushes they also often stand out by reason of bright plumage. Four species find a place in the Malayan list, of which one, the white-tailed blue robin (*Notodela leucura*), is a rare bird, and only found in the mountain forests. A fifth species, the eastern redstart (*Phœnicurus auroreus*), was recorded from Malacca many years ago, but the record is a dubious one, and

as the bird has not turned up again the species is best excluded from the local list. In this bird the male has the top of the head and the mantle pale grey; the throat, breast and back, black; the abdomen and rump, chestnut; the tail, mixed chestnut and black; and the wings patched with white. Females are brown above and paler brown below, with the rump chestnut, and much chestnut in the tail as in males. There is a pale ring round the eye.

Total length, about 6 in.; wing, about 2.8 in.

The species breeds from Siberia to Japan, and moves south in the winter to the south of China, French Indo-China, Burma, Assam, etc.

Kittacincla malabarica tricolor

The Malay Shama

Vol. I., p. 237; Vol. II., p. 225.

In this well-known Malayan species the sexes are rather different in appearance. In males the rump and the tips of the outer tail feathers are white, but otherwise the head and neck, all round, the upper breast and the entire upper parts, including wings and tail, are black with a purplish gloss. The remaining under parts are deep chestnut.

Females are blackish grey where the male is glossy black, and the chestnut under parts are much paler. The total length of adult males is about 11 in., but the tail is very long and accounts for about 7.5 in. of the length. In females the tail is relatively shorter. Wing about 3.7 in. in males and 3.4 in. in females.

This beautiful songster is fairly common in the lowlands of the Peninsula, but is more numerous on the small coastal islands than on the mainland. It is not an open-country bird, but seeks the thickets, especially where the ground is rocky. Occasionally it can be seen, or more frequently heard, in the sheltered, remote parts of the Botanic Gardens in Singapore.

In the extreme north of the Peninsula the birds differ from those found in the south in what Robinson has quite aptly called "certain trifling particulars." The northern race is *K. m. interposita*.

In Negri Sembilan Mr V. W. Ryves has taken eggs in April and July, and considers that these eggs are indistinguishable from those of the Straits robin (*Copsychus*). They were greenish white, marked with green and brownish spots. All the nests were in cavities in dead stumps. Farther north, in Kelantan, Mr Ryves took a clutch of two eggs in March. The nest was near the ground, in a cavity, in the middle of a cluster of cut bamboo stumps. These eggs had a pinkish ground-colour spotted with reddish brown.

eggs taken by Ryves
in Kelantan were
identified as the
northern subspecies,
m. interposita.

Copsychus saularis musicus

The Straits Robin

Vol. I., p. 239, pl. 19; Vol. II., p. 227.

In the male the head, neck, breast and upper parts, including the wings, are black slightly glossed with blue, with a broad white bar across each wing;

the tail is mixed black and white and the remaining under parts are white. The female is patterned as in the male, but the upper parts are less deeply black and the throat and breast are blackish grey. The abdomen and flanks are washed with buff.

Total length, about 8.5 in. ; wing, about 4 in.

This dapper black and white bird, the size of a small thrush, must be familiar to all persons resident in the Malay Peninsula. It is usually common wherever there are human habitations, and from the town gardens it spreads along the roads to the hill stations. It has a beautiful song, which can be heard in the centre of busy Singapore. Mr A. T. Edgar's observations indicate that the breeding season is from February to July.

Now very common
at Fraser's Hill
AC
11.3.43

Trichixus pyrropygus

The Orange-tailed Thrush

PLATE 23 (*upper figure*)

Vol. II., p. 226.

Trichixos pyrropyga Lesson, *Rev. Mag. Zool.*, 1839, p. 167 (Sumatra).

Trichixos pyrropygus, Sharpe, *Cat. Birds, Brit. Mus.*, vii., 1883, p. 32.

Malay Name.—Unascertained.

Description.—Upper parts (and breast in the male), blackish grey ; under parts, rump and tail more or less rufous, the tail tipped with black.

Adult male.—Head and neck all round, breast, mantle, scapulars, wings and back, blackish grey to dark bluish slate, becoming almost black on the wing quills, the edge of the wing feathers very slightly paler grey. A large spot of silky white feathers above the eye. Rump, upper tail coverts and tail, orange-rufous, the tail feathers broadly banded with black at the tips, the inner webs of the centre pair of feathers and the outer web of the outer pair of feathers also largely black. Remaining under parts, pale rufous, paling to white on the centre of the abdomen. Thighs washed with brown. Edge of the wing, dark grey ; axillaries and under wing coverts, rufous-buff and grey.

Adult female.—The rufous parts are as in the male, but the dark upper parts are dark grey-brown with an olive tinge. There is no white spot above the eye, and the throat and breast are not grey, but pale rufous like the remainder of the under parts, with a faintly marked, narrow, brownish zone across the breast.

Immature.—In the juvenile the grey of the upper parts of the adult is replaced by dark brown, with large rufous spots on the head and back. The wing coverts are tipped with spots of the same colour. The under parts are paler than in the adult, and a dusky ill-defined pectoral band is indistinctly spotted with rufous-buff. The tail is as in the adult, but the feathers have narrow chestnut tips.

Soft Parts.—Iris, brown ; bill, black ; feet, dark flesh-colour.

Dimensions.—Total length, 8.1 to 8.85 in. ; tail, 3.5 to 3.75 in. ; wing, 3.9 to 4.25 in. ; tarsus, 1.1 in. ; bill from gape, 1.05 to 1.2 in. Females run rather smaller : wing, about 3.75 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—Province Wellesley, Perak, Selangor, Malacca territory and Pahang.

Extralimital Range.—Sumatra and Borneo.

Nidification.—Unknown.

Habits.—This thrush has been collected on Gunong Tahan at about 3000 ft., and it may therefore turn up in the foothills in any part of the Peninsula, but with this exception, our experience is that it is entirely a bird of the dense lowland forests, including the swampy forests. It is usually seen in pairs in trees, but I have also seen it on the ground. Formerly classified as a babbler, it is now more correctly placed with the thrushes. Davison likens its song to that of the shama, differing only in its alarm note, which is a clear long whistle, whereas that of the shama is a harsh *kurr*.

Although this purely Malaysian species is by no means rare in the Malay Peninsula, very little is known of its habits.

The bird figured in the plate is a male from Perak.

Sub-family TURDINÆ

Thrushes

Vol. I., p. 240; Vol. II., p. 227.

THE true thrushes are well represented in the Malay Peninsula by ten species, three of which occur in two forms. Excluding the whistling thrushes (*Myiophonus* and *Arrenga*), it is doubtful if any of the local species, with the possible exception of Temminck's ground-thrush (*Geokichla interpes*), a little-known form, is truly resident in the Peninsula. Some are long-distance migrants, breeding in northern latitudes and moving south in large flocks to the tropics for the winter. Two species are confined to the mountains.

Myiophonus flavirostris dicrorhynchus

The Larger Malayan Whistling Thrush

Vol. II., p. 228.

A large blue-black bird of, roughly, partridge-size, with a yellow bill and the tips of some of the feathers shining to form spangles. On the wing coverts there are a few whitish spots.

Total length, about 12.5 in.; wing, 6.4 in.

This striking species is strictly a forest bird, which is usually found near water, especially in the vicinity of limestone cliffs, where the large snails on which it feeds are particularly abundant. It was formerly numerous in the jungle round the Batu caves near Kuala Lumpur, but this is not the case now. It also occurs on the mountains in widely scattered localities.

Myiophonus flavirostris crassirostris

Robinson's Whistling Thrush

PLATE 23 (*lower figure*)

Myiophoneus crassirostris Robinson, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club*, xxv., 1910, p. 99 (Trang, Peninsular Siam).

Myiophonus eugenei crassirostris, Robinson and Kloss, *Journ. Nat. Hist. Soc. Siam*, v., 1924, p. 302.

Malay Name.—Unascertained: probably burong gua, burong siput, or burong kubor rimba.

Description.—A large, deep-blue bird covered with slightly paler glistening spots. A few inconspicuous white spots on the wing coverts. Bill, yellow. Rather like its southern representative, *Myiophonus f. dicrorhynchus*, described in Vol. II., p. 228, but the plumage much bluer and less black and with the shiny tips to the feathers more conspicuous.

Adult.—Sexes alike. General colour, deep purplish blue, black in certain lights and quite black on the lores, chin and concealed parts of the wing quills; the blue brightest on the wings, tail and forehead. Marginal and lesser wing coverts, brighter shining blue. All the body feathers tipped with shining blue slightly paler than the background, producing a spangled effect. Median wing coverts tipped with white tinged with blue. Feathers on the back, and under parts from the breast downwards, including the flanks, white at the bases. Usually there is a white patch at the base of the primaries on the under side of the wing.

Immature.—A fully fledged juvenile is duller than the adult and lacks the glistening tips to the feathers. The upper parts are deep blue; the under parts, dull black, indistinctly streaked with whitish owing to slightly paler shaft stripes and the white bases of the feathers showing through. An older bird is like the adult, but still lacks the shiny tips to the feathers.

Soft Parts.—Iris, brown; bill, yellow, black on the culmen; feet, black. In the juvenile the bill is black, with yellow on the edges and at the gape (*Robinson*).

Dimensions.—Total length, 12 to 12.8 in.; tail, 4.4 to 5 in.; wing, 6.3 to 6.9 in.; tarsus, 1.85 to 2.15 in.; bill from gape, 1.55 to 1.7 in.

Range in the Malay Peninsula.—The southern part of Peninsular Siam, including the west coastal islands of Muntia and Lontar. The islands of Langkawi and Terutau.

Extralimital Range.—This bird was once thought to be a southern representative of the Burmese whistling thrush, *M. eugenei*, but the two forms seem to occur together in South-East Siam. *M. eugenei* is found as far south as Koh Lak, in South-West Siam, which is about 250 miles north of the northernmost known locality for *crassirostris* in the Malay Peninsula.

Nidification.—Unknown.

Habits.—On the islands of Terutau and Langkawi this whistling thrush is common in the rocky gullies and along the watercourses in the jungle on the hills. On the mainland it is less common and known only from a few specimens obtained at Nong Kok, a few miles from the Ghirbi river, in patches of jungle backed with limestone hills, standing in open park-like land; and from Trang.

The bird figured in the plate is a male from Langkawi Island.

*Turdus obscurus obscurus***The Dusky Thrush**

Vol. I., p. 243; Vol. II., p. 233.

Upper parts, fulvous-brown with a conspicuous whitish eye-stripe: chin and throat, white in females, grey at the sides in males; breast and flanks pale, orange-rust colour; abdomen, white.

Total length, about 9.5 in.; wing, 5 in.

The breeding-grounds are in Siberia, but in winter the species is very common as a bird of passage on the small islands in the Straits of Malacca and also on the Malayan mountains. It is much less numerous in the low country of the Peninsula, where its stay appears to be remarkably brief.

Geokichla sibirica subsp.**Davison's Ground-Thrush**

Vol. I., p. 241; Vol. II., p. 231.

The fully adult male is dark slate-colour with a conspicuous white eye-stripe, a white patch on the middle of the abdomen and with white tips to the under tail coverts and the outer tail feathers.

The female is quite different in plumage, the general tone of which is brown, not blackish grey. The upper parts are pale brown slightly tinged with olive and with a few buff spots on the wing coverts. The throat and breast are rich buff, the remainder of the under parts, white, washed with pale olive-brown on the flanks; the whole of the under parts, except the centre of the abdomen, are spotted or barred with pale brown. Young males are at first like the adult female in plumage, and before they have assumed the fully adult plumage are often seen in a dress combining the two plumages described above.

Total length, 10.5 in.; wing, about 5 in.

This migratory thrush is a common winter visitor to the mountains of the Malay States from its breeding-grounds in Siberia and Japan. Its route is by way of the small islands in the Straits of Malacca, on which it is common in the winter months, but, like many other migratory species, it seems to dislike the lowlands and its stay in them is very brief.

Two forms of the species visit Malaya. The bird breeding in Siberia (*G. s. sibirica*) is pale grey and there is much white on the abdomen, tail coverts, etc. The form breeding in Japan (*G. s. davisoni*) is darker and the white in the plumage is much reduced, the abdomen being entirely grey.

*Geokichla citrina citrina***The Grey-and-Orange Ground-Thrush**

Vol. II., p. 231.

In this beautiful and unmistakable species the entire head, neck and under parts, except the vent and under tail coverts which are white, are bright

cinnamon-orange. In males the upper parts are pale grey-blue, usually with a small patch of white on the wing coverts. In females the grey upper parts are washed with olive-green.

Total length, about 8.5 in. ; wing, 4.5 in.

Although this thrush is very common in the Siamese part of the Peninsula in the winter months, it is only of sporadic occurrence farther south, and from south of Selangor there is no reliable record. The species is almost certainly only a winter visitor to Malaya from its breeding-grounds just to the north, but the migratory movement, which will be discussed in greater detail in our next volume, is only a restricted one.

Geokichla interpres

Temminck's Ground-Thrush

Vol. II., p. 231.

The sexes are alike. Top of the head, chestnut-red; remaining upper plumage, blackish grey, with a large white patch on the wing coverts and the outermost pair of tail feathers white-tipped. Sides of the head, throat and breast, black, with a white patch on the ear coverts; remaining under parts, white, heavily spotted with black on the lower breast and flanks. In young birds the under parts are rich buff, irregularly marked with black.

Total length, about 6.5 in. ; wing, 4.2 in.

Very little is known about this rather rare thrush. The few specimens I have seen have been on the ground in forest. In the Malay Peninsula it has been collected on the mountains and in the lowlands. The range is from Peninsular Siam through the Malaysian islands to the Philippine Islands and Flores, but it is not certain that the species is resident throughout this area.

Nidification unknown.

Oreocincla dauma dauma

The Small-billed Mountain-Thrush

This bird is almost indistinguishable from the Javan mountain-thrush, *Oreocincla aurea horsfieldi* (Vol. II., p. 234), which is probably resident on the Malaysian mountains, but it has only twelve feathers in the tail, not fourteen.

The sexes are alike in plumage. Upper parts, rich yellowish brown tinged with olive, indistinctly spotted with buff and conspicuously barred with crescentic black markings. Under parts, white, tinged with yellowish buff on the breast and flanks and with heavy, black crescentic markings except on the throat and centre of the abdomen.

Total length, about 10.5 in. ; wing, 5.6 in.

The only Malayan record of this thrush is of a migrant collected on Pulau Rumbia, a small island in the Straits of Malacca at the mouth of the Perak river, in November 1918. The headquarters of the species are in the Himalayas.

Monticola solitaria subspp.**The Blue Rock-Thrush**

Vol. II., p. 233.

This rock-thrush occurs in the Malay Peninsula as a winter migrant only. Males from breeding-grounds lying, roughly, north-west of the Peninsula are entirely blue when fully adult. They belong to the form known as the Indian blue rock-thrush, *M. s. pandoo*. Birds from the north and north-east have a variable amount of reddish chestnut on the belly and under tail coverts. These are the Japanese blue rock-thrush, *M. s. philippensis*. It is possible that an intermediate race is worthy of distinction as *M. s. affinis*, the so-called Burmese blue rock-thrush, but detailed discussion of the species is postponed for our next volume, which deals with the migratory birds. Females of all the races are much alike. They are grey-brown, with a bluish tinge on the upper parts and buffy white below. The under parts are heavily barred with blackish, the upper parts less markedly barred. A thin, whitish wing bar is formed by pale tips to the wing coverts.

Total length, about 9 in. ; wing, 4.7 in.

It occurs more commonly in the north than in the south of the Peninsula.

*Monticola gularis***Swinhoe's Rock-Thrush**

Vol. II., p. 232.

The sexes differ widely in appearance. Males have the top of the head bright blue, the rump and upper tail coverts pale rufous-chestnut, and the remaining upper parts black, the feathers broadly edged with buff. Wing quills with a white patch at the base. Under parts, rufous-orange, with a large white patch on the throat and a few small black spots on the flanks. Females are buffy grey to olive-brown above and whitish below, heavily barred with black on the back, rump and under parts. The white patch on the throat extends to the chin.

Total length, about 6.75 in. ; wing, 3.7 in.

This thrush is rare in the Malay Peninsula, where a few specimens have been collected in winter when the species moves down to the tropics from Siberia, Manchuria, etc.

Monticola solitaria madocii.**Madoc's Blue Rock-Thrush.**

A resident breeding blue rock thrush found in Kedah has been named by Mr. J. N. Chasen after Mr. G. C. Madoc of the Malayan Police, who first discovered it. The birds were first seen by Mr. Madoc in November 1937. On 5.2.40 on the limestone cliffs at Baling, Kedah, he found a nest 25 ft from the ground in a crevice, which was built. The nest, which was 18" from the front of the crevice, was a cup-shaped affair of dry grass. The egg chamber was 4" in diameter and 1 1/2" deep. The four eggs were pointed ovals, glossy blue with a few brown spots at the blunt end. They averaged 0.83 x 0.67 ins. On 22.4.40 he found the second nest 80 ft up the cliff. It contained two eggs which were a deeper blue than the first series, and were also larger, averaging 0.94 x 0.74 ins. The Malay name is "burong turong" (burong-bird) but at Baling has been corrupted into "burong turong".