

## Plate 43

(1870): 34 –  
(wan) fide Ver-  
Orn.

pinkish-brown. In  
wing-bars can be  
nature First-winter  
ably slightly more  
parts; mantle, back  
ill-defined darker  
hafts, broadest on  
ing-coverts black  
at tips. Underparts  
led with larger or

None. Monotypic.  
and possibly mostly  
ush, with clear but  
uted phrases rising  
epeated and others  
uses of several sec-  
wi dju-wu-wi chu-  
th dju-dju-weee'u  
wee, tlee dup, tlee  
vit, and interspersed  
or wit-wit-wit, wit-  
from recordings by

ON Uncommon to  
d Near-Threatened  
in central and central  
Hopeh (north of  
in Shansi and south-  
Szechwan and most  
to 3050 m/10,000',  
in Kweichow.

ly sedentary, occurs  
autumn migrant on  
e and possibly else-  
Shantung province.  
e are thus most prob-  
e south in winter. A  
am): Cuu Long, Red  
C. Robson in litt.).

ontane broadleaved  
ons and woodlands  
growth.

d has a rather sturdy  
he long legs and bill  
or runs in the usual  
ills the characteristics  
dfare (122) in flight.  
o other thrushes, con-  
tes, especially slugs,  
th a variety of berries

Season: May–June.  
2.5 m (7') from the

ground on a branch or broken tree-stump. Eggs:  
2–4, whitish-grey to dull reddish-white with violet-  
grey blotches and irregular brown or pale reddish-  
brown spots.

MOULT No information.

**MEASUREMENTS** (n=7) Wing, male 16–120,  
female 114–118; tarsus 32–36; bill (from feathers)  
16–19. Weight apparently unrecorded.

**REFERENCES** Cheng (1987), Meyer de Schauensee  
(1984).

## 126 MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

(Mistletoe Thrush, Stormcock)

*Turdus viscivorus* Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10): 168 – Europa [restricted to  
Essex by BOU List Committee (1948) *Ibis* 90: 320].

**IDENTIFICATION** 27–28 cm (10½–11"). A large,  
stocky thrush of Europe, western Asia and much of  
Asia Minor with small outposts in central Asia and  
the western Himalayas. Large size and long-tailed  
shape an obvious feature, and on the ground tends  
to be more upright than other thrushes. Pale grey-  
brown above; heavy spotting below often forms a  
gorget pattern across the breast; the long tail has  
distinctive white tips to the outer feathers, and the  
wings have silvery-white underwing-coverts. The  
flight is distinctively undulating or bounding and  
interspersed with glides recalling that of a pigeon.

**Confusion species** Much paler, larger and longer-  
tailed than Song Thrush (124) with which it is often  
found (see that species for further differences).  
Birds in the western Himalayas are very similar to  
both Plain-backed Thrush (48) and Long-tailed  
Thrush (49), the former being slightly more rufous  
above, generally lacking any visible wing-bars in  
the field, with a pronounced eye-ring and closely  
spaced blackish bars, not spots, on the lower  
breast, belly and flanks. Long-tailed Thrush is  
slightly more olive above, shows two buffish wing-  
bars and lacks the breast-band effect; the spots on  
the breast and upper belly form short broad bars.  
White's Thrush (50) is also initially similar but has  
a heavily spotted appearance of golden-yellow  
and black crescent on the upperparts and by dark  
brown or blackish crescents below. Juveniles  
could be mistaken for White's but lack the golden-  
yellow tones and distinctive underwing pattern,  
have a less robust shape and show pale buffish  
spots to the mantle, back and scapulars with  
darker tips to feathers, and spots (not scallops) on  
the underparts.

**DESCRIPTION** Sexes alike. **Adult** Forehead to  
crown and nape pale brown tinged grey; sides of  
neck to mantle, back and scapulars pale grey-  
brown, scapulars frequently slightly browner;  
rump paler and more washed with yellowish-buff,  
uppertail-coverts similar but finely tipped greyish-  
white. Tail grey-brown with white tips to outer  
three feathers varying in extent but usually  
decreasing inwardly and forming wedge. Lores  
pale yellow or creamy-yellow becoming greyish-  
white on cheeks; pale buffish-white eye-ring most  
visible behind eye; ear-coverts slightly darker than  
cheeks and finely mottled darker, some showing  
more heavily pronounced tear-drop line below  
eye; blackish border to rear of ear-coverts extend-

ing along lower edge; has short line of fine black-  
ish spots forming vestigial moustachial stripe bor-  
dering whitish submoustachial and blackish malar  
stripe. Median coverts have black centres broadly  
tipped white, greater coverts grey-brown tipped  
finely with pale buff or buffish-white and edged  
pale buff; alula and primary coverts darker brown,  
finely edged olive; flight feathers and tertials  
brown to dark brown tinged olive and broadly  
edged pale greyish-buff on secondaries. Chin and  
throat whitish with lines of fine blackish spots at  
sides of throat becoming heavier on sides of neck;  
breast yellowish-buff strongly marked with black  
wedge-shaped spots which merge across lower  
breast to form a gorget or breast-band effect; sides  
of lower breast olive, flanks pale yellowish-buff;  
belly to vent white heavily spotted black, under-  
tail-coverts white tinged buff with a few grey-  
brown arrowhead marks at sides. In flight axillaries  
and underwing-coverts silvery-white. Bill blackish  
or dark horn-brown except for yellowish base to  
lower mandible and cutting edge of upper. Eye  
dark brown. Legs and feet pale yellowish-brown.  
In worn plumage upperparts become paler and  
buff tones on underparts less visible; also pale  
edges to flight feathers and tertials become whiter  
or are completely abraded. **Immature** Juvenile  
similar to adult but upperparts variably paler buff-  
ish or greyish-brown and many feathers have pale  
creamy-buff centres and blackish tip, especially  
those on mantle, scapulars and rump; uppertail-  
coverts have less visible pale centres but dark tips  
and edges; median and greater coverts also as  
adult but finely edged whitish or whitish-buff,  
greater broadly tipped buff, flight feathers broadly  
edged and finely tipped pale greyish-buff, tertials  
broadly edged yellowish-buff. Underparts as adult  
but spots generally smaller; some birds lack spots  
on chin and throat. **First-winter bird** Very similar  
to adult but may retain some pale shaft-streaks on  
scapulars, rump and wing-coverts; underparts usu-  
ally more heavily buffish. Retains juvenile flight  
and tail feathers and 3–4 outer greater coverts and  
primary coverts into first summer; unmoulted/  
retained greater coverts edged off-white and con-  
trast against pale olive-buff edges of newer feath-  
ers, a contrast which remains into following spring  
(in exceptional cases all greater coverts are  
moulted in first autumn, then only separable from  
adult on tail feather shape: Svensson 1992). In the

## Plate 43

hand tail feathers are narrow and more pointed than in adult.

**GEOGRAPHICAL VARIATION** Three races now considered valid; variation clinal. A considerable number of other races (at least eight) have been proposed, mainly from areas along the cline of increasingly paler birds from western Europe east to Siberia (Vaurie 1955b). Nominate birds indeed reduce their colour saturation and the amount of black spotting on the underparts from north-west Scotland east to the palest birds in Siberia and south-east Europe and Turkey. Eastern race *bonapartei* is slightly larger (c.30 cm/11%) than nominate, with longer wings and paler (pale grey) upperparts, paler or whiter underparts with the spots correspondingly less black. Race *deichleri* is similar in coloration to *bonapartei* but similar in size to nominate, with a slenderer bill.

**VOICE** Call a series of harsh chattering or rattling notes, usually louder when excited or alarmed; also a dry or slightly muted *krr*, *trrr* or *rrr* given either when perched or in flight, especially when disturbed, this note often developed into a higher-pitched *terterter* alarm note varied by a rapid dry *tuc-tuc-tuc* in the breeding season. Song a loud, far-carrying and rather mellow or melancholy melodious whistling, comprising 3–6 short phrases of fluted swirling whistles recalling those of Blackbird (111) but lacking the quick changes in pitch, e.g. *chuwee-trewuu... truretruu... truwutru... truwuwutru*, interspersed with short phrases of a second or two and repeated again with similar tone and pitch; some regional or seasonal variations, with addition of *quick-quick-quick* or *weepeecep eepee*. Overall effect is of a fairly limited repertoire and a rather slow, drawn-out delivery. May give a descending *diuiuiju* at start or towards end of normal song; also a subdued but rather rapid warbling containing 1–2 chattering notes, similar to that of Fieldfare (122).

Song usually delivered from well up in a tree or from roof-top, occasionally in flight or even from the ground; usually early on sunny mornings but also in short periods throughout the day, especially after, or even during, wet or stormy weather (hence the old English name 'Stormcock'). Song period mostly from mid-November to early June, but also exceptionally in late August, early September and October.

**STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION** Common throughout much of the range but in northern and eastern districts of Russia, the Balkans and parts of eastern Germany scarce or infrequent.

**T. v. *viscivorus*** Most of Europe, from the British Isles (with the exception of the Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland Islands) to south-east Norway, Sweden (except the west and north-west), Finland (except northern Lapland), the southern part of the Kola Peninsula and much of western Russia south of 65°N east to about 63°N in the Urals and the western bank of the Ob River; in the south the range extends eastwards from Spain and Portugal, the central Apennines to southern Italy and northern Sicily (but avoids much of northern Italy) south-east through much of the Balkans,

where the range is fragmentary and mostly restricted to the high ground of central and southern Greece (present but generally scarce or rare on the Aegean and Ionian Islands; has bred Lesbos, Kefallinia, Ikaria and Samos), discontinuously in Bulgaria and Hungary, but continuously through central Romania to the Ukraine and east to about 52°N in the southern Urals; the isolated population in Crimea was formerly separated as *tauricus*, but also occurs through the Caucasus east to Azerbaijan. Occurs throughout much of southern and western Turkey (but largely absent from west-central inland areas, southern coastal lowlands and the central Taurus range) and northern and eastern Turkey (up to about 2600 m/8580') east to extreme northern Iraq (in the Ser Amadiya) and in north-west Iran in parts of the Elburz range and elsewhere south of the Caspian, possibly also in the southern Zagros Mountains.

In winter breeding birds from Scandinavia, northern Denmark, the Baltic states, Poland, western Russia, Slovakia, Hungary and western Romania move between west and south to winter within Europe, North Africa, northern Morocco, northern Algeria, northern Tunisia (south to about Gabes) and irregularly or exceptionally to coastal north-west Libya (to Wadi Rami, Wadi Tughat and the Jefren Escarpment), Balearic Islands, Crete, Cyprus, north and east Romania, south-east Turkey, Syria, northern Iraq, Lebanon and northern and central Israel. Occasional individuals winter further north, in central Norway and Sweden, and further east, in western Russia.

**T. v. *deichleri*** Resident in northern Morocco from Tangier south to the Middle Atlas, central plateau and High Atlas; more numerous inland and up to about 1800 m (6000') in the Middle Atlas; discontinuously east through northern Algeria south to the Saharan Atlas (usually in cork oak forests) and north-west Tunisia; also Corsica and Sardinia.

**T. v. *bonapartei*** Siberia from the eastern bank of the Ob River (birds on the west banks of the Ob and Irtysh are intermediate with nominate) east to about 60°N along the Yenisei, the Podkamennaya Tunguska River basin and south-west Baikal, south through the Sayan range to the Altai and Tien Shan ranges and east into northern and south-west Sinkiang, also south through Ferghana, Tadzhikistan to northern Afghanistan (Herat and Nuristan at 1600–3100 m/5280–10,230') and the Safed Koh, eastern Afghanistan; also Chitral, Kashmir and Gilgit south to north-central Baluchistan, Pakistan and east through the western Himalayas (to west-central Nepal) where it breeds between 1800 and 3900 m (5950–12,850'). Several small isolated populations in northern and north-east Iran such as those in the Kopet Dagh (Turkmenistan). In winter moves to lower altitudes in Ferghana and the western Himalayas (1200 m/3950') in northern India (south to about Dehra Dun) and Pakistan, but only down to between 2135 and 3050 m (7050–10,050') in Nepal, occasionally more widely in northern Pakistan to Lahore and Quetta; also occurs widely in southern Kazakhstan, southern

Turkmenistan and northern Iran.

**MOVEMENT**

Autumn departure from western Russia in September and November, with several stages of south-south-western Turkey, south some to mid-December, movement of mid-October, usually mid- through Cyprus. Very little recovery in Estonia. Breeding much of only short-recoveries from Britain from breeding far from Britain. France. Breeding migrates valleys surrounding.

Return from mid-February to Europe from with birds in the weather. Archangele, northern Europe. late February.

Whilst so considerable small groups together and England in Asia, also in.

Occurs in Tripoli are severe winter along the coast to about recorded Israel it is mon spring visitor in single bird November winter visitor (March) and November-mid- the Azraq sage might including probably winter vagrant and most Bahrain Arabia; a

fragmentary and mostly  
and of central and south-  
generally scarce or rare on  
islands; has bred Lesbos,  
mos), discontinuously in  
but continuously through  
Ukraine and east to about  
rals; the isolated popula-  
erly separated as *tauricus*,  
the Caucasus east to Azer-  
but much of southern and  
ely absent from west-cen-  
ern coastal lowlands and  
and northern and eastern  
0 m/8580') east to extreme  
r Amadiya) and in north-  
e Elburz range and else-  
pian, possibly also in the  
ains.

birds from Scandinavia,  
Baltic states, Poland, west-  
ungary and western Roma-  
and south to winter within  
northern Morocco, northern  
ia (south to about Gabes)  
optionally to coastal north-  
ami, Wadi Turghat and the  
Balearic Islands, Crete,  
east Romania, south-east  
Iraq, Lebanon and northern  
casional individuals winter  
Norway and Sweden, and  
Russia.

ident in northern Morocco  
the Middle Atlas, central  
as; more numerous inland  
0 m (6000') in the Middle  
east through northern Alge-  
n Atlas (usually in cork oak  
it Tunisia; also Corsica and

eria from the eastern bank of  
n the west banks of the Ob  
mediate with nominate) east to  
Yenisei, the Podkamennaya  
and south-west Baikal, south  
age to the Altai and Tien Shan  
o northern and south-west  
through Ferghana, Tadjik-  
hanistan (Herat and Nuristan  
80-10,230') and the Safed  
istan; also Chitral, Kashmir  
orth-central Baluchistan, Pak-  
h the western Himalayas (to  
where it breeds between 1800  
12,850'). Several small iso-  
northern and north-east Iran  
Kopet Dagh (Turkmenistan). In  
ver altitudes in Ferghana and  
as (1200 m/3950') in northern  
Dehra Dun) and Pakistan, but  
en 2135 and 3050 m (7050-  
occasionally more widely in  
o Lahore and Quetta; also  
outhern Kazakhstan, southern

Turkmenistan, southern Tadjikistan and much of  
northern Iran.

**MOVEMENTS** Partial and altitude migrant.  
Autumn departures of birds in Scandinavia and  
western Russia occur between mid- or late Sep-  
tember and November with birds moving in grad-  
ual stages between south-south-west and  
south-south-east to winter mostly within Europe,  
western Turkey, Cyprus and the Middle East, in the  
south some birds still on passage at beginning or  
mid-December. In western Russia southward  
movement conspicuous from late September to  
mid-October; passage across Strait of Gibraltar  
usually mid- to late October and eastward passage  
through Cyprus from mid-October to mid-Novem-  
ber. Very little migration across the North Sea, with  
very few noted at northern observatories; single  
recovery in south-east England of a bird ringed in  
Estonia. Breeding birds in British Isles and proba-  
bly much of north-west Europe sedentary or make  
only short-distance movements with very few  
recoveries beyond 50 km. Movements noted in  
Britain from August to November but forms post-  
breeding family parties or flocks in late July. Birds  
from Britain recovered mostly in Ireland and  
France. Breeding birds in the Himalayas are alti-  
tude migrants, moving down to the foothills and  
valleys surrounding the breeding areas.

Return movements begin in the Middle East in  
mid-February but elsewhere in southern and central  
Europe from late March, and continue through April  
with birds reaching the northern limits of the breed-  
ing range in late April and early May, depending on  
the weather; in some years not back in the  
Archangel region until 20 May; in central and east-  
ern Europe birds arrive on breeding territory from  
late February and in central Sweden in late March.

Whilst some birds are nocturnal migrants a con-  
siderable number move by day, either alone or in  
small groups. Large numbers moving or flocking  
together are rare but 280 flying west in southern  
England in September and 1500 in Mordovia, Rus-  
sia, also in September are extremes.

Occurs as a scarce or irregular winter visitor to  
Tripoli area of north-west Libya and in harsh or  
severe winters in Europe to northern Egypt (mostly  
along the coast to about Matruh, Nile Delta, south  
to about Cairo and the Suez Canal) where  
recorded from mid-October to early March. In  
Israel it is variably an absent, rare, scarce or com-  
mon spring and autumn passage migrant or winter  
visitor in the northern half of the country; usually  
single birds but with records of flocks (50+) in  
November and December; it is also a very rare  
winter visitor to Sinai (mostly November and  
March) and extremely scarce in Jordan Novem-  
ber-mid-March, mostly in northern highlands to  
the Azraq area, once south to Aqaba. A rare pas-  
sage migrant to Iceland (37 records to end 1995,  
including a nest with 5 eggs in spring 1988 but  
probably only a single female involved), and win-  
ter vagrant (fewer than 12 records) to Crete, U.A.E.  
and most of the Gulf States (single records in  
Bahrain and Qatar) to northern and eastern Saudi  
Arabia; also Faeroes (7 records), Azores, Sikkim

(flock of 8, October 1998), China (1 record in  
Sinkiang) and Japan (1 record).

**HABITAT** Woods, plantations, edges of forests,  
open forest, copses, hedgerows, open fields,  
orchards, parks and town and city squares; in  
some parts of the range occurs in almost treeless  
areas. In the south and east of the range it occurs  
in upland and montane woodlands of conifers,  
including cedar and juniper forests or mixed with  
oak and birch; also dwarf juniper above the tree-  
line; in North Africa above 600 m (1980') and  
occasionally to c.1700 m (5600'). In winter to  
more open areas of farmland or rough pasture,  
moorland, hillsides and grassy areas.

**BEHAVIOUR** Occurs alone and in pairs but fre-  
quently gathers in family parties or small loose  
flocks in late summer, with groups of up to 50 not  
uncommon but above 150 exceptional. Roosts  
singly or in pairs in trees, tall bushes and  
hedgerows; family parties in autumn more sociable  
and roost together. In Europe in winter often asso-  
ciates or shares feeding areas with Redwings (123)  
and Fieldfares (122). Spends time in the open on  
the ground where typical gait is erect or upright  
with head held up and tail down, actions similar to  
Song Thrush although hops are longer and more  
pronounced; when excited or alarmed flicks wings  
and tail. In flight regularly closes wings for a sec-  
ond or two; thus while short flights are fairly direct,  
longer ones are more undulating. Pairs are often  
quarrelsome; males are intolerant of intruders into  
territory and bold in its defence; fearlessly attack  
birds or prey and crows, etc., especially near the  
nest. Forages mostly within habitat but more in  
open fields and rarely in undergrowth or hedgerow  
bottoms. Food mostly invertebrates, fruit and  
berries. Invertebrates include earthworms, snails,  
slugs, beetles, ants, millipedes, earwigs, grasshop-  
pers and spiders; vegetable matter includes fruits  
and seeds of alder, barberry, bilberry, blackberry,  
buckthorn, cherry, currant, elder, grape, hawthorn,  
holly, juniper, mistletoe, olive, rose, rowan, snow-  
berry, strawberry and yew, flowers and shoots of  
grasses, sycamore, etc.; will take fallen apples and  
plums. Has been known to attack and kill young  
Song Thrush, Blackbird and Hedge Sparrow  
*Prunella modularis* and slow worm.

**BREEDING** Season: mid-March (late February in  
Britain) to mid- or late July. Nest: a large cup of  
fine sticks, dry grasses, roots and moss, occasion-  
ally lichens, bracken fronds, bits of wool, cloth or  
feathers lined with mud, fine grasses and leaves;  
usually up to 20 m (66') from the ground (but  
many within 2-9 m/ 6.5-30') along a branch or in  
a fork, against the trunk of a tree, in a hedgerow  
bush or tree, on a ledge in a building, bank, cliff-  
face or amongst rocks. Nest built by female but  
assistance from male not unknown. Eggs 3-5,  
exceptionally 2-6, pale or greenish-blue, also pale  
creamy-buff or buffish-brown spotted, dappled or  
blotched with reddish, purple or blackish-brown;  
can also be unmarked. Incubation period 12-15  
days; usually by female. Fledging period 14-16  
days; young fed by both adults. Two broods  
throughout most of the range (except in Siberia);

adult male feeds young of first brood when adult female on eggs of second.

**MOULT** Adults have full post-breeding moult beginning in late May to late June, occasionally whilst birds are still breeding; completed between mid-August and early October. Juveniles have partial moult of head, body, lesser, median and some inner greater coverts, depending on hatching but begins May to August and completed by early to mid-October. No spring or summer moult but may renew some body feathers January to March.

## 127 WHITE-CHINNED THRUSH *Turdus aurantius* (*Turdus*) *aurantius* Gmelin, 1789, *Syst. Nat.* 1(2): 832 – Jamaica.

**IDENTIFICATION** 24–26.5 cm (9½–10½"). Endemic to Jamaica, like White-eyed Thrush (155). Has dark grey upperparts except for slightly darker or browner head and paler grey underparts, with distinctive white patch in the wing (formed by two white webs to the inner greater coverts), small area of white on the chin, and bright orange-red bill, legs and feet. **Confusion species** None likely; apart from wintering American Robin (161), White-eyed Thrush is the only other thrush on Jamaica but lacks the white patch in the wing and the bright red bill and legs and has a pale eye and brown-streaked white chin and throat.

**DESCRIPTION** Sexes alike. **Adult** Forehead to crown, nape and face sooty-black, face streaked or flecked paler in some birds but in others as dark as crown. Mantle, back, scapulars, rump and upper-tail-coverts dark grey tinged brown or sooty-brown. Wings and tail darker uniform brown but not as dark as crown, with two broad white edges to innermost greater coverts forming small white patch; edges to outerwebs of flight feathers dark greyish-slate; underwing-coverts slate greyish-black with whitish edges. Chin, whitish; throat grey-brown or paler in some, rest of underparts greyish-buff except for whitish-buff belly (sometimes from lower breast) to vent; breast can also show whitish tips; undertail-coverts grey-brown or with white tips. Bill bright yellow-orange to deep orange with blackish tip. Eye brown or orange-brown. Legs and feet yellow or yellowish-orange.

**Immature** First-year bird similar to adult including white edges to inner wing-coverts; chin and throat sooty or blackish-brown as rest of head except for centre of chin, which is dull whitish. Underparts duller than adult with darker brown-grey on breast, with dull rufous-brown tips or spots and dull whitish bases to feathers on lower breast and belly; flanks dull brown, undertail-coverts grey with some white streaks or tips. Bill dark with yellow or orange tip. Legs and feet dull yellow or yellowish-orange.

**GEOGRAPHICAL VARIATION** None. Monotypic.

**VOICE** Variable from a lilting melodious song in breeding season, often including shrill whistles (or given on their own) *p'lice*, *p'lice* or a *piuu* and a repeated *wichu wichu wichu...* and a deep cluck-

**MEASUREMENTS** Wing, male (n=90) 143–170, female (n=69) 142–168; tarsus 28.5–35; bill (from skull) 22–25; *bonapartei* wing, male (n=45) 156–176, female (n=15) 155–171; *deichleri* wing, male (n=23) 147–160; female (8) 145–153. Weight 100–167 g; *bonapartei* male 100–150 g, female 93–140 g (Dementiev & Gladkov 1954, Vaurie 1959, Cramp *et al.* 1988).

**REFERENCES** Cramp *et al.* (1988), Ctyroky (1987), Dementiev & Gladkov (1954), Tucker & Heath (1994), Vaurie (1955b, 1959).

Plate 55

ing *kek* scolding note often repeated monotonously; alarm a rapid high-pitched series of notes very similar to those given by Blackbird (111). Song slow and lilting, containing shrill drawn-out notes usually in pairs on a rising scale, such as a continually repeated *ture-tee-too-too-tee-tee*, but richer and recalling both American Robin and Blackbird in tone; also has a softer, more subdued subsong. Sings mostly in the early dawn; song period from late February to August.

**STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION** Very common resident. Endemic to Jamaica.

**MOVEMENTS** Largely sedentary but some, possibly first-year birds, disperse to lower levels in winter.

**HABITAT** Mostly in hills and mountains, where it is chiefly a woodland bird, but also enters citrus and banana plantations, pastures and gardens; on the north and south-west coasts occurs down to sea-level.

**BEHAVIOUR** Generally alone or in pairs but may roost semi-colonially. Most habits like other *Turdus* thrushes, habitually spending long periods on the ground; when in trees or on the ground the tail is often held high or semi-erect over the back; tail also flicked rapidly when alarmed or nervous, and wings drooped at sides of the body. An active and easily seen bird (but can also be elusive, and more often heard than seen) with quick movements; usually flies low and fast, especially when in escape flight, when gives high-pitched alarm call. Forages on the forest floor in typical thrush fashion; frequently seen along roadsides and especially active following rain. Takes small lizards, frogs, small mice, worms, slugs, beetles, moths, fruit and berries.

**BREEDING** Season: May to August. Nest: a bulky, untidy cup mostly of leaves, plant fibres (especially of pimento) and twigs usually placed in a shrub, bromeliad, base of a palm frond, stump, fork or span of a branch. Eggs: 2–4, dull whitish or pale green, finely spotted darker or with reddish-brown. Two broods.

**MOULT** No information.

**MEASUREMENTS** Wing, male (n=22) 116–127, female (n=14) 112–123; tarsus 32–40.5; bill (to feathers) 21–25.5. Weight apparently unrecorded.

**REFERENCES** Levy & Downer (1992).

## 128 GRAND CAYMAN THROAT *Mimocichla ravid* Cory, 1886.

**IDENTIFICATION** 27–28 cm (10½–11½"). Rather long-tailed thrush endemic to Grand Cayman Islands; not seen since 1938 and now extinct. Almost entirely ash-grey except for white tips of outer tail feathers and coracoid lobes, white vent to undertail-coverts. Confusion species None. Long tail, almost uniform plumage and legs made it unmistakable.

**DESCRIPTION** Sexes almost alike. Entire upperparts uniform deep ash-grey with slightly darker or blacker lore and upper mandible. Tail blackish-grey, with black central webs of outer four feathers with blackish-grey at tip. Coverts uniform with slightly darker or blackish-grey on alula and primary coverts slate-grey with blackish-grey with thin pale or whitish to primaries and broadly edged grey on secondaries, outerwebs slate-grey; underwing-coverts dark slate-grey; sides of nape, chin, throat and breast pale grey or tinged buff on breast tail-coverts white; small area of eye. Bill, eye-ring, legs and feet grey on wings, and innerwebs.

## 129 RED-LEGGED THRUSH *Turdus plumbeus* Linnaeus restricted to Islands of Antigua and Barbuda *Hist. Carolina, Florida,*

**IDENTIFICATION** 26–27 cm (10–11"). Identical and widespread thrush in the Caribbean Indies from Cuba to Dominica but absent from Jamaica. thrush; nominate birds are a white chin, red base of bill, ring, pale greyish edges to white spots to the tips of Variation between island

**Confusion species** None

**DESCRIPTION** Sexes alike. Face and forehead to nape grey, slightly lighter on nape; base of forehead can also be black or blackish-grey. Tail blackish-brown with white tips to outermost tail feathers in size inwardly. Middle tipped grey, greater coverts obscured by broad pale and slightly darker grey.