Preliminary review of the Clay-coloured Robin *Turdus grayi* with redesignation of the type locality of the nominate form and description of a new subspecies

by R. W. Dickerman

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In attempting to identify the races of specimens of *Turdus grayi* collected on the Pacific lowlands and in the Motagua River Valley of Guatemala during the course of studies of mosquito transmitted viruses, it became necessary to re-evaluate the geographic variation throughout the range of the species. Such a major revision was not possible with the currently available material due to the paucity of specimens in unworn plumage and also in part due to post-mortem colour changes. However, it seems important to clarify the status of the nominate population, since the designation of the type locality by Griscom (1930) appears erroneous. Because of the resultant recognition of the characters of the true nominate population, it also becomes necessary to rename the widely distributed race that has long been considered to be *Turdus grayi grayi*.

The species was described by Bonaparte (1837) from a collection of birds obtained during a "fortnight's scientific tour" in Guatemala by Col. Velazquez de Leon. The location of the species type is unknown.

Hellmayr (1938) wrote that the type was in the Lord Derby Collection, which went to the Liverpool Museum. Wagstaffe (1978) did not include it in the list of the types of the Merseyside County Museums (=Liverpool Museum), and M. J. Largen, current Keeper of Zoology kindly confirmed by letter that the Velazquez types were not in that collection. They apparently never were in the Derby Collection. The confusion may have arisen because Bonaparte presented reports on 3 collections at the same meeting of the Zoological Society of London. The third was on a collection by Leadbeater and the statement is made (Bonaparte 1838: 119) that birds from Leadbeater were to be part of the Derby Collection.

Velazquez apparently landed at Ystapa (=Ixtapa), the only Pacific port then in use (San Jose was not established until 1853 — Squier 1858) and probably travelled via Naranja and Escuintla to Palin, and thence either through

Antigua or Lago Atitlan to Guatemala City.* All the species he obtained occur along this route, *contra* Griscom (1930: 6) who erroneously thought "*Pachysylvia* (=*Hylophilus*) *decurtata*" was restricted to the Caribbean rain forest (see also Phillips 1966). Further, Griscom, in justification of his designation of the Department of Alta Vera Paz, Guatemala as the type locality of Bonaparte's *Turdus grayi*, wrote (1930: 6) "It is apparent that Col. Velasquez must have bought a collection of the trade-skins of the day . . .". Yet in recounting the history of Guatemalan ornithology (Griscom 1932: 4), he cited Bonaparte's 1837 paper as the earliest record of ornithological collecting in Guatemala and stated that it was from 1842 onwards that collectors began visiting the country and training Indian hunters in making trade skins. The type of *Turdus grayi* was without doubt taken along the highway from Ixtapa to Guatemala City. Griscom (1930: 6) wrote "Post-mortem color change in this species is so pronounced that specimens taken prior to 1900 are usually worthless for subspecific comparison. It consequently makes *little or no difference whether the type still exists or not*" (italics mine). This is true where subtle colours, especially olive and grey, are involved, but is less true in the case of deeply coloured forms.

Although the Port of San Jose was not in use in the 1830's, the road from Ystapa passed nearby and there are specimens of "*umbrinus*" from San Jose. Van Tyne & Trautman (1941) restricted Bonaparte's *Scolopacinus rufiventris* to San Jose. I therefore designate San Jose as the type locality of *Turdus grayi* Bonaparte.

With this identification of the nominate form, the following subspecies of *T. grayi* may be recognized from Central America in this preliminary review. These are arranged geographically north to south.

Turdus grayi tamaulipensis

Turdus grayi tamaulipensis Nelson, *Auk* vol. 14, p. 75, 1897; type locality Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

Diagnosis: Ventrally this and *microrhynchus* are the palest of the known subspecies; their bellies are creamy or pinkish-buff, the flanks and breast are buffy. Dorsally, *tamaulipensis* (collected 1941), *microrhynchus* (1958), *linnaei* (1964), and *megas* from Guatemala (1969) are inseparable.

Range: Central Nuevo Leon and southern Tamaulipas and northern Veracruz inland to southeastern San Luis Potosi, and the arid northern part of the Yucatan in Campeche, Yucatan and Quintana Roo, extending south to at least northern Belize.

Discussion: At present the population of the Yucatan Peninsula is designated *tamaulipensis,* although it is disjunct from the remaining range of that form by several hundred kilometers, with the very dark form *lanyoni* (*subsp. nov.* described below) occupying the intervening region. There is insufficient useful material from the Yucatan to evaluate its relationship to genuine *tamaulipensis* or to *megas* of Guatemala, which is in closer geographic proximity.

Turdus grayi microrhynchus

Turdus grayi microrhynchus Lowery and Newman, *Occ. Pap. Louisiana State University Museum of Zoology* no. 22, p. 5–8, 1949; type locality Santa Maria del Rio, central-southern San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

*Route determined from road map of the Department of Guatemala published in "Atlas Guatemalteco en ocho cartas", Formadas y grabadas en Guatemala, 1832.

Diagnosis: Similar in colour to *tamaulipensis* but bill decidedly smaller and shorter.

Range: Known only from the vicinity of the type locality.

Discussion: This form was based on 4 males and 2 females. I have seen 2 additional specimens and those indeed do have small bills. The extent of the range of this form has yet to be determined.

Turdus grayi lanyoni subsp. nov.

Type: Adult male no. 824182, American Museum of Natural History, collected in the [San Andres] Tuxtla Mountains, 0.5 km west of Cerro Balzapote, Veracruz, Mexico on 8 November 1974 by Mario A. Ramos, prepared by Richard J. Oehlenschlager (original field no. "MEX – 5422").

Diagnosis: Darker dorsally and ventrally than *tamaulipensis, microrhynchus, linnaei,* or *megas*; nearer *grayi* but less deeply ochraceous ventrally, belly much paler, dorsally similar to nominate *grayi.*

Range: Veracruz and Caribbean drainage of Oaxaca (integrades with *linnaei* north of Matias Romero at Sarabia), southeast through Tabasco, across the base of the Yucatan Peninsula into southern Belize south to at least Lago Izabal, Guatemala, and through the humid Caribbean slopes of Chiapas into the tropical northern interior of Guatemala.

Remarks: With Griscom's assignment of the type locality of *grayi* to Alta Vera Paz, the name has been used for all dark populations north (and indeed south) of Guatemala. Because of the ecological variation within Alta Vera Paz, moderately typical examples of 2 or even 3 forms could probably be found there (i.e. *grayi, lanyoni,* and perhaps *megas*). In northern Veracruz, along the Lago Tamiahua (Moctezuma) and in adjacent Puebla (Rancho Ajengibre, Tuxpan Road) *lanyoni* integrades with *tamaulipensis.* The detailed zones of intergradation with the adjacent southern subspecies have yet to be determined.

Turdus grayi linnaei

Turdus grayi linnaei Phillips 1966, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Cl.* vol. 86, pp. 127–128; type locality Las Delicias, Chiapas, Mexico.

Diagnosis: Ventrally similar to *tamaulipensis* but with belly, undertail coverts and throat slightly deeper in colour, more ochraceous, rather than creamy-buff; breast slightly darker and greyer. Slightly paler ventrally with somewhat greyer flanks than *megas* from Guatemala.

Range: More xeric habitats of Pacific Oaxaca and adjacent lowlands of Chiapas, extending south in the interior of Chiapas to at least the Guatemala border. Extent of range in Guatemala is unknown.

Remarks: This is a weak race and was not compared with *megas* in the original description. In a detailed revision, *linnaei* may not be separable from the normal variation within *megas,* although at present the range appears to be separated by the dark forms *grayi* and *lanyoni.*

Turdus grayi grayi Bonaparte

Turdus grayi Bonaparte. *Proc. Zool. Soc. London* 1838, p. 116; type locality by above redesignation San Jose, Dept. Escuintla, Guatemala.

Turdus grayi umbrinus Griscom. *Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. Novit.* no. 438, pp. 5–6, 1930; type locality Finca El Cipris, near Mazatenango, Pacific lowlands of northwestern Guatemala.

Diagnosis: Darker and browner dorsally, similar to *lanyoni*; ventrally the most deeply ochraceous of all the subspecies.

Range: Northwestern Guatemala, apparently extending north in the humid habitats of the mountains of southern Chiapas to Mapastepec. In Guatemala intergrades towards *megas* at San Jose and Panajachel.

Discussion: Of the 21 specimens labelled "*umbrinus*" by Griscom in the AMNH collection, only 6 are in unworn plumage of use for comparisons. Eight juveniles are more richly coloured than a juvenile *lanyoni* and much more so than 3 juveniles of *megas* as defined below. Monroe (1968) could not distinguish "*umbrinus*", as individuals of the "dark type" occur at random in Honduras; moreover, the latter are likely to be intergrades with *lanyoni*, which may extend southward across the humid lower Montagua Valley. Actually, the range of *grayi* is separated from the dark Honduran birds by the Guatemalan portion of the range of *megas*.

Turdus grayi megas

Turdus grayi megas Miller & Griscom 1925. *Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. Novit.* no. 138, pp. 3–4; type locality Matagalpa, Nicaragua.

Diagnosis: Paler throughout than *grayi* or *lanyoni*, ventrally slightly darker and buffier than *linnaei*, markedly darker than *tamaulipensis*.

Range: From Pacific lowlands of Guatemala; near San Jose and Motagua River Valley (except the lower portion) south through Central America to Nicaragua.

Discussion: Miller & Griscom (1925) had available 3 specimens from Guatemala which they listed with a question mark as *T. grayi grayi* [*ie. lanyoni*]. Those specimens, all from the Lawrence collection, lack further data, but probably are *lanyoni*. However, Anthony collected at least one readily identifiable *megas* and probably others, but wear and bleaching is so advanced that it is not worth conjecturing the original colours of some birds, since there are good series available to provide a concept of the range in Guatemala. The one good *megas* available to Griscom was taken at "Puebla" [= near Quiriguá, Motagua Valley] and was originally labelled as *casius*. On the label that name has been mostly erased and a line drawn through it; a question mark has been added, I believe by Griscom, and "= *grayi* Lg" has been added in his handwriting. It is a pale greyish-backed bird that is even greyer than a paratype of *megas*.

Within the extensive range of *megas* as given above there may be distinctive populations that warrant recognition, but this awaits further study (for example the dark specimens from Honduras reported by Monroe 1968). The type and paratypes of *megas* are not separable from specimens from the Pacific lowlands and Motagua Valley of Guatemala collected in 1969, although they do differ, as does *grayi*, from *tamaulipensis* as described by Miller & Griscom.

Turdus grayi casius

Planesticus casius Bonaparte, *Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci. Paris,* vol. 41, p. 657, 1855; type locality, Panama.

Diagnosis: A moderately pale race like *megas* but browner, less greyish; darker than *tamaulipensis*, browner than *linnaei,* much paler and less richly coloured than *lanyoni* or *grayi*.

Range: Costa Rica, Panama, and adjacent Colombia, northwestern Choco on the Gulf of Uraba.

Discussion: The ranges of *megas* and *casius* in Nicaragua have yet to be determined.

Key to Subspecies of *Turdus grayi*

1.	Dorsally pale and grey to greyish olive or greyish brown	2
1.	Dorsally notably dark and brown	5
2.	Culmen short (less than 19 mm)	*microrhynchus*
2.	Culmen larger	3
3.	Dorsally greyish brown	*casius*
3.	Dorsally greyish olive	4
4.	Flanks and undertail coverts paler	*linnaei*
4.	Flanks and undertail coverts darker	*megas*
5.	Belly ochraceous, breast flanks and undertail coverts deep ochraceous	*grayi*
5.	Belly paler buffy ochraceous, breast, flanks and undertail coverts paler	*lanyoni*

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Address: Dr. R. W. Dickerman, Dept. of Microbiology, Cornell University Medical College, 1300 York Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10021, U.S.A.

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