

## WHITE'S THRUSH.

*Turdus Whitei*, *Eyton*.

Le Merle de White.

THREE specimens of this rare bird having been killed in Europe, two on the banks of the Elbe near Hamburgh, and a third which was shot by Lord Malmesbury at Heron Court in Hampshire, in January, 1828, we have deemed it necessary to include a figure of it in the present work.

While at Hamburgh we were fortunate enough to obtain one of the specimens taken there, from the person who had it, in a fresh state; this specimen now forms a part of the collection of T. B. L. Baker, Esq., of Hardwicke Court, Gloucester, who doubtless values it as one of the greatest rarities of his collection. Although we have placed this bird in the genus which comprehends the true Thrushes (the type of which is the *Turdus musicus*, Linn.), still we doubt not that this bird, with the *Turdus varius* of Dr. Horsfield and another from New South Wales, will be found to constitute a well-marked and distinct group among the *Merulidæ*. From the greater length of their wings, we are led to believe that these birds possess very considerable powers of flight, and that in all probability they are strictly migratory in their habits. When compared with the true Thrushes a considerable difference may be observed in the form and length of the tail, and also in the tarsi and toes.

In its general size the *Turdus Whitei* exceeds by almost a fifth the *Turdus varius*, while the bill is much smaller: the length of the wing in Mr. Baker's specimen of *Turdus Whitei* is six inches and three quarters, while that of the *Turdus varius* and of the species from New South Wales scarcely exceeds five inches and a half. The great difference in size and the smaller bill will be sufficient to establish the specific value of this fine bird, which has with much propriety been dedicated to the celebrated and kind-hearted White, whose work on the Natural History of Selborne is not only fraught with instruction, but has given a decided impetus to the study of this branch of knowledge in this country. This species is very common in Japan, and is in all probability dispersed over a great part of Southern Siberia.

Crown of the head, back of the neck, back, rump, and upper tail-coverts light yellowish brown, each feather tipped with a crescent-shaped mark of blackish brown; wing-coverts and tertiaries dark brown tipped with buffy brown; spurious wing dark blackish brown, crossed in the middle by a band of buff; primaries dark brown on their inner webs, and buffy brown on the outer; four central and two outer tail-feathers pale brown, the latter tipped with whitish; the remainder blackish brown; throat, centre of the abdomen, and under tail-coverts white; the remainder of the under surface pale buff, each feather passing into deep buff near the tip and terminating in a crescent of blackish brown; bill and feet light brown.

Our figure is of the natural size.