

## THE AMAMI GROUND THRUSH DISTINCT FROM THE WHITE'S GROUND THRUSH

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An important endemic resident found only in Amami-oshima as it is, the Amami ground thrush (the Amami tiger thrush, or O-toratsugumi in Japanese) had been regarded by many authors as a subspecies of the White's ground thrush of a wide distribution. It seems very few in number. For these reasons, this conspicuous resident was entirely overlooked in such recent publications as Massey et al. 1982: Field Guide to the Birds of Japan, Takano, 1982: the same as above in Japanese, and Yamashina, 1986: World List of Birds. First of all, the scientific names of it appeared on references in the main shall be shown below.

1905 *Geocichla major* Ogawa, Annot. Zool. Jap. 5 : 178 (Amami-oshima. Invalid because of a preoccupied name).

1922 *Turdus dauma amami* Hartert, Vögel. Paläarkt. Faun. 3 : 2155 (New name given *major*).

1925 *Oreocincla dauma amami* : Kuroda, N. Avifauna of the Riku Kiu Islands, 76.

1958 *Turdus dauma amami* : Hachiska et al. A Hand-List of the Japanese Birds, 4th and rev. ed. 73 (O-toratsugumi in Japanese, Amami tiger thrush).

1974 *Turdus dauma amami* : Kuroda, N. et Morioka, Check-List of Japanese Birds, 5th ed. 245 (Resident on Amami-oshima, White's ground thrush for *T. dauma*).

1974 *Turdus dauma amami* : Takano *et al.* The same as above in Japanese, 79 (O-toratsugumi in Japanese).

1974 *Turdus dauma amami* : Uchida, Book of Japanese Birds (Nippon-Chorui-Zusetsu), 236 (Endemic subspecies to Amami-oshima, of tail feathers 12 in number).

1975 *Turdus dauma amami* : Abe, Let's protect these Birds (in Japanese), 230-232 (Amami ground thrush).

1978 *Turdus dauma amami* : Kiyosu, The Birds of Japan (Nippon-Chorui-Daizukan), ad. and rev. ed. 1: 206 (Amami tiger thrush).

1982 *Turdus dauma* : Masey *et al.* A Field Guide to the Birds of Japan, 247 (White's ground thrush in part).

1982 *Turdus dauma* : Takano, The same as above in Japanese (Nippon-no-Yacho), 247 (Toratsugumi in part).

1964 *Zoothera dauma major* : Mayr and Paynter, Check-List of Birds of the World,

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1986 *Zoothera dauma* : Yamashina, A World List of Birds (Sekai-Chorui-Wamei-Jiten), 503 (White's thrush in part).

Compared with the White's ground thrush, the Amami ground thrush is apparently larger. The tail feathers of the former are usually 14 in number, while those of the latter are decidedly 12 in number. The voice is a gloomy and monotonous whistle mostly at night in the former, while it is entirely different in the latter and is a fine and cheerful song early in the morning.

Judging from the above-mentioned remarkable characters, Kiyosu (1978, loc. cit.) insisted that the Amami ground thrush is a distinct species from the White's ground thrush, and as the scientific names he gave *Turdus dauma amami* Hartert to the Amami ground thrush and *Turdus aureus aureus* Holandre to the White's ground thrush.

Although I agree with his opinion, I believe that the Amami ground thrush is not a subspecies but a species endemic to Amami-oshima, Japan, and therefore the scientific name of it is *Turdus amami* Hartert. When the narrow divided genus is used, it is *Zoothera amami* (Hartert) (comb. nov.).

By the way, it was reported recently, that the habitats of this species are restricted within the central district of Amami-Oshima (Higuchi, Y. et S. Hanawa, 1985, Habitats of the Amami ground thrush in Amami-oshima (in Japanese). Reserches concerning the peculiar wild birds of Japan, 35-51) and then an establishment for a sanctuary of wild birds in Kinsakubaru is confidently expected.

### オオトラツグミは奄美大島特産の独立種

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オオトラツグミは奄美大島だけに生息する重要な日本特産の鳥でありながら、最近刊行された高野, 1982 フィールドガイド日本の野鳥, 山階, 1986 世界鳥類和名辞典などに全く脱落している。その理由は、オオトラツグミが広く分布するトラツグミと同種で、亜種の違いとして扱われてきたことと、その個体数がたいへん少ないために、結果的には看過されることになったと思われる。

私は形態ならびに鳴き声などの顕著な特徴から、オオトラツグミは独立種と信じ、学名も *Turdus amami* Hartert と改めるよう提唱した。分割された属名を採り、*Zoothera amami* (Hartert) でもよいが、属の包含する範囲はかなり主観的な場合もあるから、使いなれた愛着のある *Turdus* を生かし、*Zoothera* は亜属名としてはいかがとも思う。日本野鳥の会の花輪伸一氏のご厚意で、重要な文献を見ることができた。心から謝意を表してペンをおく。

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