

A Record of Japanese Thrush *Turdus cardis* from Eastern Thailand

During preparations for a diorama exhibition at Sakaerat Environmental Research Station, Wang Nam Khieo District, Nakhon Ratchasima Province (14°30'N; 101°55'E), a number of birds killed in accidents, such as collisions with cars, or killed by predators, were recovered for use as stuffed specimens. When I visited Sakaerat on 14 December 1998, my attention was drawn to the carcass of one of these birds, a thrush, which the staff had kept in the freezer.

Initially, I was puzzled by the identity, since the bird did not tally with any illustration in LEKAGUL & ROUND (1991), but after consulting YAMASHINA (1961) and WILD BIRD SOCIETY OF JAPAN (1982) I identified it as a first-winter male Japanese Thrush *Turdus cardis*. The bird was found dead on or about 3 December 1998, after having flown into the window of one of the research station buildings, situated in dry dipterocarp woodland at ca. 300 m elevation. The specimen is stored as a mounted specimen at Ecological Research Department, Thailand Institute of Scientific and Technological Research (TISTR), Bangkok.

Description: Crown and sides of head blackish without any obvious distinguishing features; mantle slaty grey-brown; cleaner, purer greyer on the rump and upper tail coverts. Throat whitish with bold black streaks which coalesced to form a blackish malar stripe, divided from the blackish sides of the head by a white submoustachial stripe. Blackish breast band formed by black-centred breast feathers, sharply demarcated from the whitish lower breast and belly. Roundish black spots on the lower breast and flanks extended almost to the tail. A few rufous-buff feathers were present at the sides of the breast and lower margin of the breast band. The under-tail coverts were white. Primaries, secondaries and tertials were blackish-brown with narrow grey-brown margins to the leading edges of the primaries. The two innermost tertials had faint, narrow buffy tips. The tail was greyish, the feathers being blacker towards the tips giving a slight suggestion of a broad, indistinct terminal tail-band.

It was a first-winter bird, as evident by the presence of two outermost unmoulted greater coverts on each wing. These were brownish with even narrow buffy tips and contrasted with the greyer, moulted, inner greater coverts. On the specimen, the bill appears yellow-horn, darker towards the tip of the mandible, on the base of the culmen, and middle part of the maxilla. When first examined by the author, the bill appeared more extensively dark than after specimen preparation. The legs were pale horn.

The measurements were: total length 206 mm; wing 114 (unflattened, unstraightened); tail 84 mm; tarsus 23 mm; bill (gape) 28 mm and weight 52 g.

This is only the second record of Japanese Thrush for Thailand. The only preceding record was a male in montane forest on Doi Inthanon from 3–11 February 1993 (FINCH & KENNEWELL, 1994). The Japanese Thrush breeds throughout much of Japan, north to Hokkaido (BRAZIL, 1991), central China (CHENG, 1987) wintering in S. China, north and central Laos and northern Vietnam (CHENG, 1987; KING ET AL., 1975).

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