

Moluccan Thrush *Zoothera dumasi joiceyi* on Seram

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Anis Maluku *Zoothera dumasi joiceyi* di Seram

Bowler & Taylor (1989) reported sighting three individuals of Moluccan Thrush *Zoothera dumasi* at 1280 m in Manusela National Park on Seram on 16 August 1987. They pointed out that their detailed notes on the plumage differed from the description in White & Bruce (1986) sufficiently to suggest an undescribed plumage or that a second species might inhabit Seram (Coates & Bishop, 1997). This was the first sighting that I have found since the Seram form *Zoothera dumasi joiceyi* was described in 1921 by Walter Rothschild & Ernst Hartert (1921). Another recent sighting of seven individuals in northeastern Seram was reported by Clement (2000).

The Seram form was described as *Turdus joiceyi* with the collecting locality given only as "Ceram". Rothschild & Hartert (1921) also reported that Erwin Stresemann had seen the bird twice on his expedition to Seram but had failed to collect a specimen. The type remains the only specimen. It is an unsexed adult with no further information on the label than that it was collected on Seram. While researching the description of *Turdus joiceyi* for a list of type specimens held in the American Museum of Natural History, I was able to determine the type locality and can perhaps clarify the apparent plumage differences. The type was given to Rothschild by J. J. Joicey, who had sent the brothers Felix, Charles and J. Pratt to Seram to collect butterflies for him. Joicey built the Hill Museum in Whitely, England to house his large collection of lepidoptera and published the Bulletin of the Hill Museum to document his entire collection. This publication ran to only four volumes, with publication beginning in 1921. The Pratt brothers' collection is written up in a number of articles in Volume 1, the most important for our purposes is one by Janse (1924). In it one finds that the Pratts collected from October 1919 to February 1920, that their main base was at Manusela and that they collected between the altitudes of 3,000 and 6,000 ft. (c. 1,000 - 2,000 m), with one record that I noted from Taloeti Bay in February 1920 at the end of their stay. Therefore the type locality can be said with some certainty to be near Manusela, as this is a bird of lower montane forests, and Bowler and Taylor's sighting was close to the type locality. Manusela is shown on the map in Bowler & Taylor (1989).

In comparing the specimen with the original description by Rothschild and Hartert and with that in White & Bruce (1986), I find that neither fits the specimen as well as the description by Bowler and Taylor (1989). Particularly troubling was the description in White and Bruce of black undertail coverts when Bowler and Taylor found them to be pure white. The original description by Rothschild and Hartert noted that the undertail coverts were black at the base but bordered by wide white tips. This is correct and the effect in the skin is that the black bases are completely hidden by the white tips, therefore the undertail coverts appear pure white. Also apparent on the skin, but not mentioned by any of the above, are indistinct narrow bars of alternating black and deep brown on the feathers of

the back, wing coverts and tail. This is very obscure and probably would not be noticeable in the field.

References

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