

**Ryukyu robin / *Luscinia komadori* / Akahige / アカヒゲ**

The Ryukyu robin is a small bird (about 14 centimeters long) with a loud but melodic voice. It is an endemic species that diverged long ago from its continental cousins, and is found throughout Amami-Oshima's evergreen broadleaf forests. The male's head, back, tail, and upper wing surface are a bright orange-red. The chest and sides are black and the belly is white, a colorful contrast that is not shared by the plainer female. The powerful call of the male is used to stake out territory and attract a mate. The Ryukyu robin's long legs let it easily forage on the forest floor for insects, larvae, and other food. This bird was designated a National Natural Monument in 1970 and is considered endangered.