

## Thrushes

### **Amami thrush / *Zoothera major* / Otoratsugumi / オオトラツグミ**

This large (30-centimeter-long) thrush is only found on Amami-Oshima and Kakeroma Island just to the south, and is designated a threatened species. Its head and body are a pale olive-brown with darker and lighter bands across the head, back, chest, and belly. The Amami thrush has an odd gait when hunting for food: it moves more like a plover than a thrush, running quickly in brief spurts before suddenly stopping to listen. The bird's song is musically complex, a pleasant call that is often heard in the morning forest. At one time it was considered one of the most endangered birds in Japan, but reforestation has helped the population recover.

### **Pale thrush / *Turdus pallidus* / Shirohara / シロハラ**

This migrating thrush comes from the Eurasian continent to winter on Amami-Oshima. It migrates in flocks, but otherwise is seen solo or in small groups. It has a grayish head and a dull brown body, with the chest and belly a lighter shade of brown. Like most thrushes, it forages on the ground and in the trees, hunting for insects, worms, berries, and seeds.