

'AMAUI

Myadestes woahensis

Other: Hawaiian Thrush (1983-1985), O'ahu Thrush

monotypic

native resident, endemic, extinct

For over 160 years the existence of 'Amaui, the endemic solitaire from *O'ahu*, was known only from descriptions by Bloxam (1827a, 1827b; see Wilson and Evans 1899, *E* 16:19), who had heard them and collected two specimens in Nu'uuanu Valley 14 May 1825 while the *Blonde* was ported in Honolulu. He considered it an [Oma'o](#), mentioning that there was a "variety of the same" on O'ahu, as did most taxonomists until the "Hawaiian Thrushes" were split in 1982 (see [Kama'o](#) and [Synonymies](#)). The next collectors to work on O'ahu and in the Nu'uuanu Valley, Townsend and Deppe (Townsend 1839), failed to find any thrushes in 1837 and there have been no subsequent reports of merit (*cf.* *E* 14:76, 23:56, Wakelee and Fancy 1999). Bloxam's specimens were long thought to be lost, until Olson discovered the type specimen in the British Museum ("150a") in 1985 and analyzed another specimen at the Academy of National Sciences at Philadelphia (ANSP 13660; [HRBP](#) 5912-5914 of specimen), concluding that it was most likely Bloxam's second bird (Olson 1996a).

One of the reasons these specimens were overlooked was their resemblance to individuals collected on Lana'i and Moloka'i, such that they had been re-designated by early museum taxonomists as [Oloma'o](#) to the exclusion of 'Amaui. Pratt (1982) considered the O'ahu form a "questionable species," the basis for the AOU's (1985) decision to split them, whereas James and Olson (1991, Table 14) and Olson (1996a) concluded based on comparison of the two specimens that 'Amaui is best treated as conspecific with [Oloma'o](#), a treatment followed by Gill and Donsker (2016; see [Synonymies](#)). More recent molecular evidence (R. Fleischer, pers. comm.) suggests they should probably be separated, and we follow that opinion here. The interpretation by McCarthy (2006), that hybridism occurs between *lanaiensis* and *woahensis* based on the similarity of the specimens, is in error. We follow Olson (1996a) and subsequent treatments (Clements et al. 2016, Gill and Donsker 2016) in spelling the specific name "*woahensis*" rather than "*oahuensis*", "*oahensis*", or "*woahuensis*" as variously referred to in the historic literature (see [Synonymies](#)). The Hawaiian (and Common) name indicates that it is the bird of the demigod and warrior, Maui (Perkins 1903).

[Acronyms and Abbreviations](#)

[Literature cited](#)

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