

## THE BIRDS OF BANGKOK.

By W. J. F. WILLIAMSON.

### INTRODUCTION.

In the last number of the *Journal*, I published a Preliminary List of the Birds of Bangkok, and stated that, with the present number, I hoped to commence a serial paper giving some account of the appearance, habits, etc., of the birds of this locality.

Comparatively little has been done, up to the present, in the way of a systematic study of the birds of Siam. A few local collections have been made and some papers issued, the earliest, of which I have any record, being Capt. Stanley S. Flower's *Birds of a Bangkok Garden*, published in *The Ibis* in the late nineties of the last century. This includes 28 birds only, and is of every slight value. The same may be said of the list of Siamese birds, numbering 75 species (some of them unidentified), given in an appendix to Mr. H. Warington Smyth's *Five Years in Siam*, published in 1898. The only part of the country which has been worked with any degree of thoroughness is the western portion of Siamese Malaya, from Trang southward. In 1908 and 1909, this district was visited by Messrs. Robinson and Kloss, of the Federated Malay States Museums, who published in *The Ibis*, in 1910-11, a paper giving a complete list of all the birds obtained or observed by them or their collectors.\* The paper in question, which enumerates some 270 species, is the most important contribution yet made to our knowledge of Siamese avifauna. It is to be remarked, however, that the area covered by these contributors includes, not only Trang, but also the adjacent Langkawi group of Islands, together with Perlis and the northern portion of the State of Kedah as far south as the mouth of the Kedah river. These places were all Siamese territory at the time they were visited, but, before the paper was issued, a large part of the area mentioned had passed under British protection by

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\*As stated by Messrs. Robinson and Kloss, Trang had been previously visited in 1896, 1897 and 1899, by Dr. W. L. Abbott, the well-known American naturalist, who formed a magnificent collection of bird-skins. Unfortunately, however, no full account of this has ever been issued, though a few species have been described.

virtue of the Anglo-Siamese Treaty of 1909. As localities are not always stated by Messrs. Robinson and Kloss, it is possible that some of the birds given in this paper were not found in what is now Siamese territory.

Next in chronological order is Mr. K. G. Gairdner's *List of the Commoner Birds found in Siam*, which was published in 1912 in the *Journal of the Siam Society*, and comprises some 140 species, for the most part personally obtained or observed by Mr. Gairdner in different parts of the country, including 26 in Bangkok. An interesting feature of the list is the attempt which has been made to give the Siamese names of a number of the birds mentioned.

Finally, we have the paper published in 1913 by Count Nils Gyldenstolpe, the Swedish naturalist who spent nearly six months in Siam between November 1911 and May 1912. This contains a list of 191 birds collected or observed in various localities ranging from Sriracha and Koh-si-chang in the south, to about as far as Dene-chai in the north. It is a notable addition to the published lists of our avifauna.

The descriptions in this paper will be as full as is considered necessary to enable the various species to be readily identified, but no attempt will be made to render them technically complete. Further, in order to avoid undue detail, one measurement only will usually be given, viz., the total length of the bird, but collectors are recommended to take and record the following measurements:—

*Length.* From tip of bill to tip of longest tail feather, with the bird laid flat.

*Tail.* From root of tail to tip of longest tail feather.

*Wing.* From bend of wing to tip of longest primary.

*Tarsus.* From centre of joint connecting tarsus with tibia, to basal joint of middle toe.

*Bill.* From tip of bill to angle of gape.

No remarks will be made on the nesting habits of the species dealt with. The reason for this omission is two-fold. In the first place, any notes on the subject, however slight, would unduly increase the length of this paper, and so retard its completion. Secondly, one of the members of the Society is making a special study of the nests and eggs of Siamese birds, and it is hoped that he may be in a position before very long to give us the benefit of his observations on this most

interesting feature of bird-life. It has, accordingly, been deemed advisable, at this juncture, to refrain from dealing with the subject in what would necessarily (owing to lack of adequate material) have been an incomplete manner.

As was the case with the Preliminary List published in the last number of the *Journal*, the classification and nomenclature of the birds here described are taken from the *Fauna of British India—Birds*, by Oates and Blanford, and the numbers in brackets are those of that work. Species described in this paper, which were not included in the Preliminary List, are marked with an asterisk. (\*)

The area within which the birds dealt with have been obtained, is that comprised by the City and its suburbs, together with the surrounding country within easy walking distance thereof. This limitation of area has been adopted with a view to rendering the paper of particular use to those residents of the Capital (and they are doubtless many) whose opportunities for observation are confined to Bangkok and its immediate neighbourhood.

The following is a list of the principal books and papers to which references will be made, but the names of the authors only will be quoted, in order to avoid repetition of the titles of the works:—

- Blanford..... W. T. Blanford. *The Fauna of British India—Birds.* Vols. III and IV. 1895 and 1898.
- Gyldenstolpe..... Count Nils Gyldenstolpe. *Swedish Zoological Expedition to Siam.* 1913.
- Oates..... Eugene W. Oates. *The Fauna of British India—Birds.* Vols. I and II. 1889 and 1890.
- Robinson..... Herbert C. Robinson. *A Hand-List of the Birds of the Malay Peninsula, south of the Isthmus of Kra.* 1910.
- Robinson and Kloss... Herbert C. Robinson and C. B. Kloss. *On Birds from the Northern Portion of the Malay Peninsula, including the Islands of Langkawi and Terutau. The Ibis.* 1910-11.

It may be appropriate to make a few remarks here on the subject of the Siamese names for birds. In Siamese, the word for Bird is นก (*Nok*), and this is usually prefixed to the particular species to be described—thus, นก ตีทอง (*Nok tī t'hong*, literally, the Goldbeater-bird, *i.e.*, the Coppersmith or Barbet), in much the same way as we say Weaver-bird or Tailor-bird. In English, however, these descriptive names are the exception, whereas in Siamese they are the rule—only a very few birds not having the syllable *Nok* prefixed to their names, such as กา (*Kā*, Crow), แร้ง (*Rēng*, Vulture), etc. Domestic poultry, again, and other allied species, have special names of their own, as ไก่ (*Kai*, Fowl), with its derivatives ไก่ทอง (*Kai-nguang*, Turkey), ไก่ฟ้า (*Kai-fa*, Pheasant), ไก่ป่า (*Kai-pā*, Jungle Fowl), ไก่นา (*Kai-nā*, literally, Field Chicken, a name properly applicable to the large Grey Quail); เป็ด (*Ped*,\* Duck), with its derivatives เป็ดน้ำ (*Ped-nām*, Teal), etc.; ห่าน (*Hān*, Goose); and หงส์ (*Hongs*,† Swan).

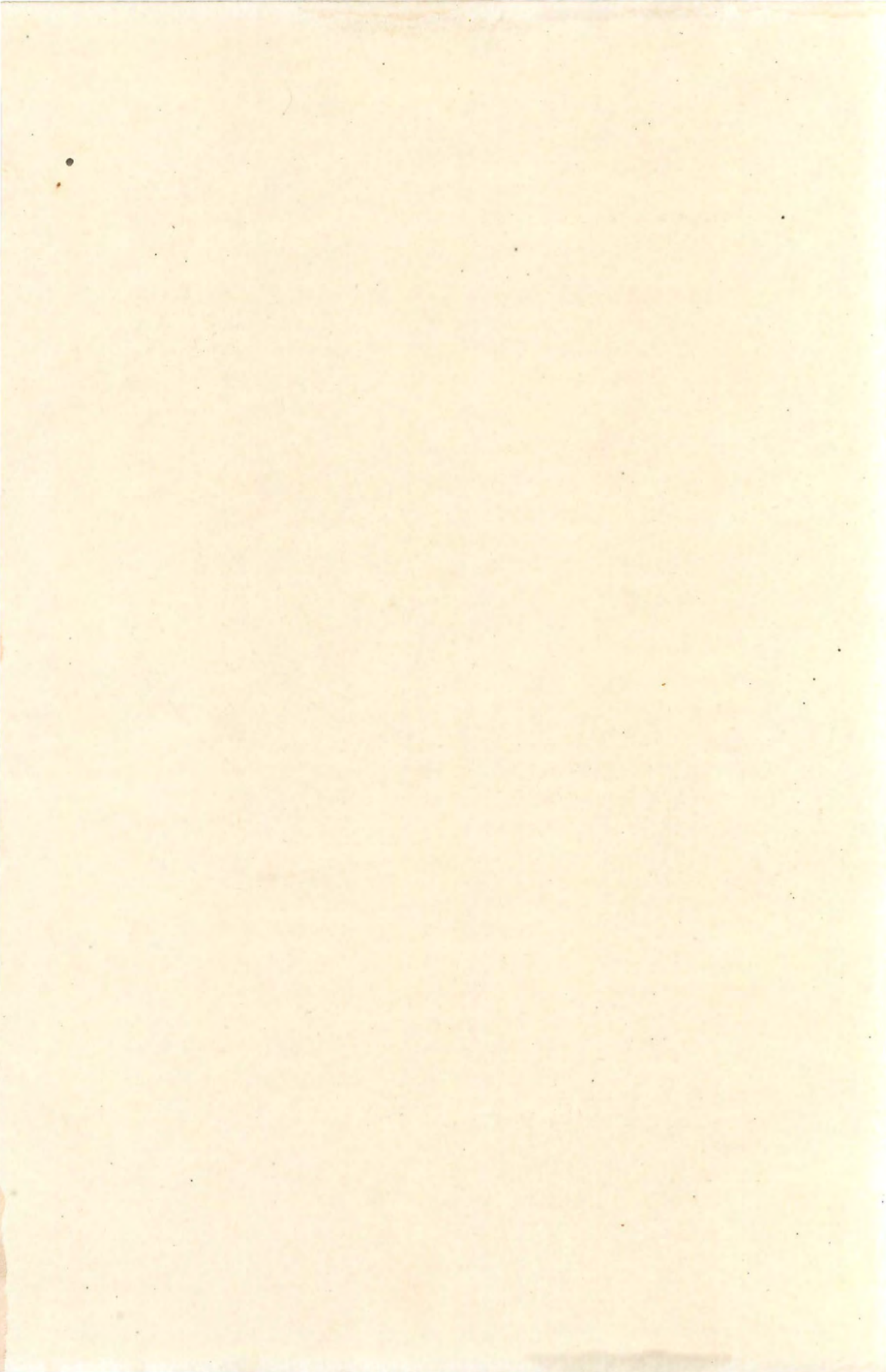
The term นก กระจับ (*Nok krachib*) is a general one applied to small birds of more or less inconspicuous plumage, and is also used, with descriptive affixes, to denote particular species—thus นก กระจับ กระไซ (*Nok krachib krasai*), *i.e.*, the common Tailor-bird. It has also to be remarked that, colloquially, the prefix อี (*I*),‡ denoting a female of low rank, is often applied to a number of birds, *e. g.*, อีกา (*I-kā*, Crow); อีแร้ง (*I-rēng*, Vulture); นก อีเหยี่ยว (*Nok i-ēn*, Swallow), &c. It is, however, usually omitted both in polite conversation and in writing.

Needless to say, Siamese names vary according to locality, as do popular names in most countries, and even in the same locality different names will often be given to the same bird—probably owing to want of exact knowledge of the bird itself. I have endeavoured to

\*The *d* of *Ped* is pronounced more like a *t*.

†The *s* of *Hongs* is silent.

‡To be pronounced like the English vowel *E*.



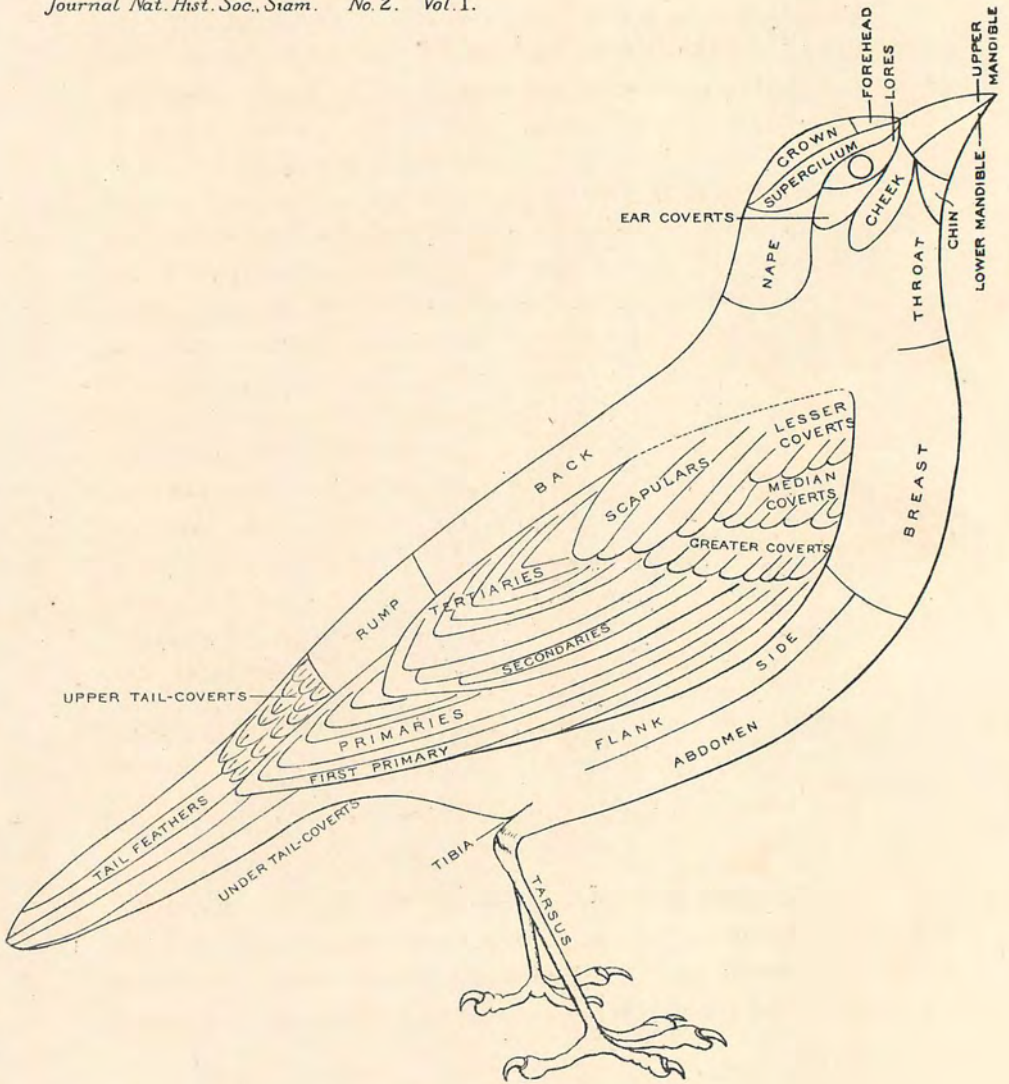


Diagram of Bird.

sift these variations, and the Siamese names given in this paper are, it is believed, those by which the birds concerned are generally known in Bangkok. In this matter, and in the orthography of the words, I have received most valuable aid from H. R. H. Prince Chandaburi and H. H. Prince Bidyalankarana, to whom my grateful thanks are tendered.

In transliterating Siamese names, for the purposes of this paper, aspirated consonants are represented by the corresponding unaspirated letters, followed by an *h*,—thus the aspirated *k* is written *kh*, the aspirated *ch* is written *chh*, and so on. In the case, however, of the aspirated *p* and *t*, an apostrophe ( ' ) is introduced between the letter concerned and the accompanying *h*—as *p'h* and *t'h*, to avoid the possibility of the *ph* or *th* being pronounced like an *f*, as in the English word *pheasant*, or like *th*, as in the English words *then*, *thin*, &c. All vowels are to be pronounced as in Italian, and long ones are marked with a stroke over them—thus *ā*. For the transliteration of the names, I alone am responsible.

The accompanying plate shows the diagram of a bird, with the names of the various parts of its body and plumage. Most of the terms need no explanation, but the following definitions may be useful:—

<i>Lores.</i>	Space in front of the eye.
<i>Primaries.</i>	Outermost 9 or 10 quills of the wing.
<i>Secondaries.</i>	Quills springing from the radius and ulna.
<i>Supercilium.</i>	Space between the eye and the crown.

I have again to express my great obligations to Mr. H. C. Robinson, Director of Museums, Federated Malay States, for his kindness in identifying, or confirming the identification of, the birds mentioned in this paper.

ORDER—**PASSERES.**Family *CORVIDÆ*—Crows, Magpies, &c.1 (4). *Cervus macrorhynchus.* *The Jungle-Crow.*

Siamese, กา (Ka).

*Description.* Length, up to 508 mm. (20 in.). Colour, black throughout—all the feathers, except those of the neck, having a decided gloss.

Bill and legs, black. Iris, dark brown. In young birds which I have examined, the base of the bill and the gular skin are pale pinkish flesh-colour, while the iris is bluish grey, changing gradually to dark grey, and thence to dark brown, as the bird gets older.

*Habits, &c.* This bird is exceedingly abundant in Bangkok, and is a regular frequenter of our gardens all the year round.

The majority of the crows of Bangkok appear to roost on the west side of the river, though the high trees round some of the Wats and other old buildings on the east side are also favourite roosting places. Towards sunset, crows from all parts of Bangkok may be seen flapping their leisurely way (always in a westerly direction) to the places where they are to spend the night.

*Distribution.* Also recorded from Trang (Robinson and Kloss), and Eastern, Central and Northern Siam (Gyldenstolpe). Probably to be found almost everywhere throughout the country.

[Note. Gyldenstolpe states that *C. insolens* (The Burmese House-Crow) is "very common in Bangkok and its neighbourhood" *C. insolens* is smaller than the present species, and has a conspicuous dull brown neck. I have never seen any such bird here.]

2 (21). *Crypsirhina varians.* *The Black Racket-tailed Magpie.*

Siamese, กาเวน (Ka wēn).

*Description.* Length, 330 mm. (13 in.), of which the tail measures nearly 203 mm. (8 in.). Whole plumage black, with a bronze-green metallic gloss, except on the forehead and round the



eye, where the feathers are of a dull velvety black. The centre pair of tail feathers are noticeably spatulate in form.

Bill and legs, black. Iris, pale blue.

*Habits, &c.*, This "fine little Magpie", as it is called by Oates, occurs sparingly in the suburbs of Bangkok, and though it usually keeps away from the neighbourhood of houses, I have seen it in my compound in Sathon Road several times. It appears to be resident here, as my specimens, though not numerous, were obtained at intervals throughout the year.

This bird is strictly arboreal in its habits, and I have always observed it either in pairs, or three or four together (perhaps a family), searching the tips of branches of trees, including bamboos, for insects—the while uttering its not unmusical single note, *kēh*.

*Distribution.* The only other recorded locality is Northern Siam (Gyldenstolpe), but I have met with it also at Ayuthia and Koh Lak.

Family *CRATEROPODIDÆ*—Laughing Thrushes,  
Babblers, Etc.

\*3 (160). *Turdinus abbotti*. *Abbott's Babbler*.

*Description.* Length, 152 mm. (6 in.). Upper plumage, olive brown, with a rufous tinge on the back, the rufous becoming brighter on the upper tail-coverts. Chin and throat, whitish, shading into rufous on the breast and abdomen, the lower portion of the abdomen, and especially the under tail-coverts, being brighter rufous.

*Distribution.* With the exception of Trang, where it is reported as "rather scarce" (Robinson and Kloss), there appears to be no other record of its occurrence in Siam. My single specimen (a male) was obtained in February 1914, near Wat Insri, to the south of Bangkok.

4 (176). *Mixornis rubricapillus*. *The Yellow-breasted Babbler*.

*Description.* Length, 127 mm. (5 in.). Forehead and crown, dull ferruginous; rest of upper plumage, olive green. Chin, throat and breast, pale yellow with black shaft-stripes; centre of abdomen, plain yellow; remainder of lower plumage, ashy with yellow tinge.

Iris, dull white, Bill, brown. Legs, fleshy horn-colour.

*Habits, etc.* In Bangkok I have only met with this bird on the west side of the river. It is fairly common there in the fruit and betel-nut gardens which abound in that neighbourhood, and is probably also to be found in other similar localities round Bangkok. The bird hops and flits about bushes and low trees, searching for insects, and is somewhat of a skulker, having the habit of taking refuge in the recesses of a thick bush or bamboo-clump, when alarmed, and is then very difficult to dislodge. Its note is a trisyllabic one, *cr-r chee chee*.

*Distribution.* Gyldenstolpe records this bird from Northern Siam, and I have procured it both at Ayuthia and at Koh Lak, in scrub jungle. Oates states that it is found in Tenasserim to a little south of Tavoy, where it is replaced by an allied species, *M. gularis*, which occurs in Southern Tenasserim and the Malay Peninsula to Sumatra. As Koh Lak is about 260 km. (160 miles) south of Tavoy, it would appear that *M. rubricapillus* extends lower down in this country than it does in Burma, and it will be interesting to see what is its southerly limit in Siam.

5 (243). *Aegithina tiphia*. *The Common Iora*.

Siamese, นกกระจับสีถั่ว (Nok krachib si thua†).

*Description.* Length, 137 mm. (5.4 in.). *Male.* Upper plumage, more or less black in summer, yellowish green in winter, except the wings and tail which are always black—the former with two white bars and with the quills narrowly edged with yellow. Lower plumage, bright yellow from chin to breast, shading into greenish yellow from the abdomen to the under tail-coverts. *Female.* Entire upper plumage, greenish at all seasons, the tail dusker, and the quills blackish brown with yellowish edges—the two white bars being present, as in the male. Lower plumage, greenish yellow.

Iris, yellowish white. Bill, bluish black. Legs, plumbeous.

*Habits, etc.* This pretty little bird is a resident species, and is generally found singly or in pairs, searching for its insect food among the leaves of trees. While so engaged, it utters its various melodious

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† The *b* of *krachib*, in this and other places where it occurs, is pronounced more like a *p*. The words *si thua* mean “bean-coloured”.

notes. One of these is a soft and rather long drawn-out trill, and another is a quick whistling call of *whee-o whee-o*. Its most remarkable note, however, which it not unfrequently utters, is a long, slow whistle of two syllables, corresponding to the musical notes *e* and *g* sharp.

This bird may be looked for in every Bangkok garden, but it is more often heard than seen, owing to its small size, its strictly arboreal habits, and the manner in which its colouration blends with that of the foliage among which it is always found.

*Distribution.* Also recorded from Northern Siam (Gyldenstolpe), and Trang (Robinson and Kloss).

6 (288). *Otocompsa emeria*. *The Bengal Red-whiskered Bulbul.*

Siamese, นกปรอดหัวโขน (Nok parod hua khon†).

*Description.* Length, 190 mm (7.5 in.). Forehead and crown, black—the feathers of the latter being elongated into a conspicuous crest 19 mm. (.75 in.) long; a small crimson patch below and behind the eye; upper neck, back and wings, brown; tail, dark brown—the outer four or five feathers on each side, tipped with white. Lower plumage, white, except the under tail-coverts, which are crimson.

*Distribution.* Trang (Robinson and Kloss); Phrae (Gyldenstolpe). Mr. E. G. Herbert informs me that it is common at Paknampo. I obtained one specimen of this handsome bird in my garden in October 1913, and there is another in the Museum here marked "Bangkok" in, I am told, Flower's handwriting.

7 (298). *Pycnonotus analis*. *The Yellow-vented Bulbul.*

Siamese, นกปรอดหน้านูน (Nok parod na nuan‡).

*Description.* Length, 203 mm. (8 in.). The whole upper plumage, brown, darker on the head; a broad supercilium, white;

† The *d* of *parod*, in the names of this and the next two birds, is pronounced more like *s* *t*. The words *hua khon* mean "mask-headed."

‡ The words *nā nūan* mean "powdered-faced".

lores, black; cheeks, chin and throat, whitish. Breast, brown; abdomen, whitish brown, the sides darker; under tail-coverts, sulphur yellow.

Iris, brown. Bill and legs, black.

*Habits, &c.* This is a resident bird, and is regularly met with in our gardens, though on the whole it occurs somewhat sparingly, being very much less common than the next species. From the latter it may be distinguished by the amount of white on the sides of its head, the brighter yellow of its under tail-coverts, and its more melodious liquid notes. It is generally to be seen in pairs, and is a somewhat shy bird.

*Distribution.* Robinson and Kloss only came across two or three specimens of the Yellow-vented Bulbul in Trang. I can find no other record of its occurrence in this country.

\*8 (306). *Pycnonotus blanfordi*. *Blanford's Bulbul*.  
Siamese, นกปรอดสวน (Nok parod suan.)

*Description.* Length, 203 mm. (8 in.). The whole upper plumage, olive brown, darker on the head and paler on the rump; ear coverts, white. Chin, dull whitish brown; rest of lower plumage, ashy brown, paling off to yellowish brown on the under wing-coverts and tail-coverts.

Iris, dark grey. Bill, brown, darker at tip and pale flesh-colour at base of lower mandible. Legs, dark pinkish or plumbeous brown, sometimes with a bronzy tinge.

*Habits, &c.* This is one of the most abundant birds in Bangkok and is a resident of our gardens all the year round—sometimes entering houses also. Despite its plain and inconspicuous plumage, it is always in evidence, by reason both of its numbers and its harsh notes. It has a variety of these—among the commonest being a noisy and guttural *cha-cha-cha* or *chak-chak-chak*, as well as a *chika-chika-chika*. These are repeated several times in rapid succession, after which there is a lull. The bird also has an alarm cry of *cr-r-ch*, *cr-r-ch*.

Blanford's Bulbul appears to live on fruit and berries, as well as on insects, as I have observed the parent birds carrying both kinds of food to the young ones in their nest.

In the Siamese name, the word *suan* means "garden," and is a

not inappropriate descriptive term. The bird is, however, commonly known as *Nok parod* only.

*Distribution.* So far only reported from Northern Siam (Gyldenstolpe), but probably occurs over a large part of the country I have met with it as far south as Koh Lak.

Family *DICRURIDÆ*—Drongos.

9 (327). *Dicrurus ater.* *The Black Drongo.*

Siamese, นกขี้เหล็กแคบ (Nok sēng sēo klēb†).

*Description.* Length, about 279 mm. (11 in.). In very old birds, the whole plumage is black, glossed with steel-blue, younger birds having the under tail-coverts tipped with white. In those still younger, the colour is brownish black, the feathers of the lower plumage having white tips. The tail is forked to a depth of about 38 mm. (1.5 in.)

Iris, dark brown to reddish brown and deep lake-red. Bill, black. Mouth, blackish. Legs, blackish brown to black.

*Habits, etc.* This is the common little black bird with the forked tail which is seen everywhere in Bangkok from the beginning of October to the end of March—a few specimens lingering on almost throughout April.

The Black Drongo (or King-Crow, as it is usually called by Europeans in India) feeds entirely on insects, which it usually takes on the wing by swooping on them from some exposed point of vantage, though it sometimes descends to the ground for the purpose. Its notes are cheerful, with a soft, metallic quality, and almost approach the beginnings of a song at times.

In the Siamese name of this bird, the word *klēb* signifies "lesser", and serves to distinguish it from the Racket-tailed Drongo, which is larger. In common parlance, however, this bird is merely the *Nok sēng sēo*.

*Distribution.* Also recorded from Eastern, Central and Northern Siam (Gyldenstolpe).

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† The *b* of the word *klēb* is pronounced more like a *p*.

10 (332). *Dicrurus leucogenys*. *The White-checked Drongo*.

Siamese, นกเข่งเข่งสี่เทา (Nok sēng sēo si t'hao).

*Description.* Length, nearly 279 mm. (11 in.). Whole upper plumage grey, except the forehead, the ends of the first 5 or 6 primaries, and the shafts of the wing and tail feathers, which are black. Lores, and sides of head, white. Lower plumage, pale grey, the under tail-coverts whitish. The tail is forked to the extent of about 38 mm. ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  in.). In young birds, the grey of the plumage is darker, and the white of the cheeks duller and smaller in extent.

Iris, reddish brown to crimson lake. Bill and legs, black.

In the Siamese name, the words *si t'hao* mean "ash-coloured"—a quite appropriate term.

*Habits, etc.* Very similar to those of the preceding species. I have only found this bird here from October to February, and it appears to occur rather sparingly.

*Distribution.* Occurs also in Trang (Robinson and Kloss). This bird is not recorded by Gyldenstolpe, so its northern limits are unknown.

11 (340). *Dissemurus paradiseus*. *The Larger Racket-tailed Drongo*.

Siamese, นกเข่งเข่งหางป๋อง (Nok sēng sēo hāng būang.)

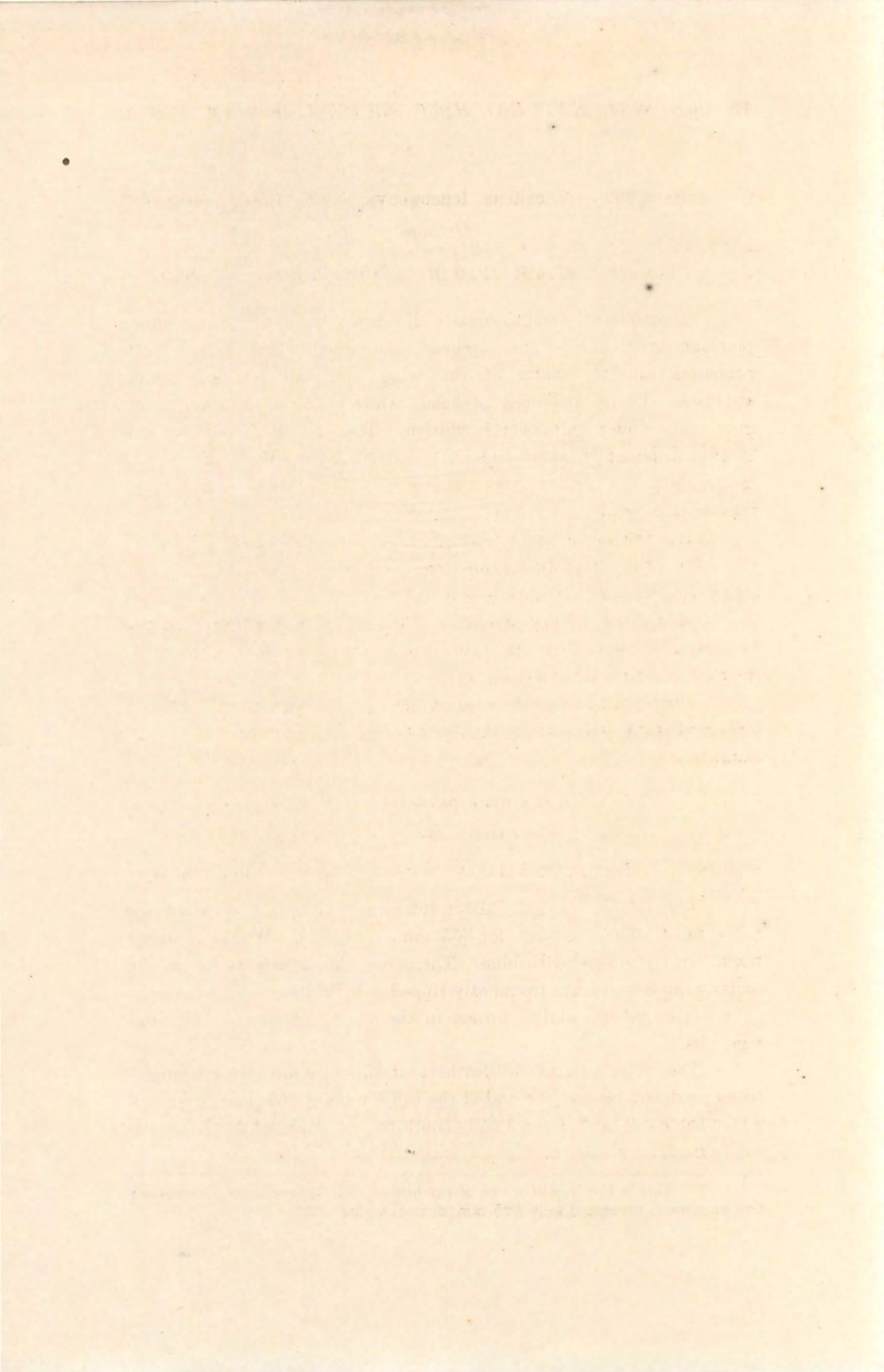
*Description.* Length, about 482 mm. (19 in.), † of which the outer tail-feathers account for 305 mm. (12 in.). Whole plumage black, largely glossed with blue. The under tail-coverts, as well as the under wing-coverts, are frequently tipped with white.

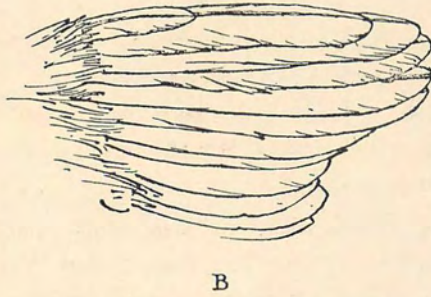
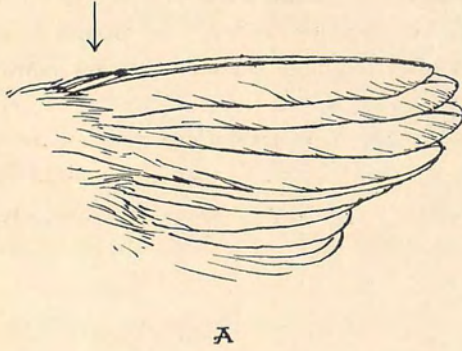
Iris, red in adults, brown in the young (Oates). Bill, and legs, black.

The outer pair of tail-feathers of this bird are very striking—being produced beyond the end of the tail for about 152 mm. (6 in.), of which the basal half is practically nothing but shaft, while the termi-

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† This is the length of one of my birds. The longer of Gyldenstolpe's two specimens measured only 425 mm. or about 16.75 in.





Wings (natural size) of  
A. *Acrocephalus orientalis*. The Eastern Great Reed-Warbler.  
B. *Arundinax aëdon*. The Thick-billed Warbler.



nal portion is webbed on the outer edge only, except at the very tip, for about 76 mm. (3 in.). This webbed portion has a tendency to curl or loop inwards: hence the Siamese name—the words *hāng būang* meaning “loop-tailed.” The forehead has a short tuft of feathers, curling backwards.

*Habits, etc.* This bird appears to be of strictly arboreal habit, and captures its insect food on the wing—swooping on it from a perch. It has a variety of rich, metallic notes. In Bangkok it is a resident species, and is found throughout the suburbs, but more abundantly in the well-wooded ones, such as on the west side of the river.

*Distribution.* Robinson and Kloss also record it as occurring throughout the (Malay) Peninsula—and therefore, presumably, in Trang—while Gyldenstolpe met with it in Eastern, Central and Northern Siam.

#### Family SYLVIIDÆ—Warblers.

#### 12 (364). *Acrocephalus orientalis*. *The Eastern Great Reed-Warbler.*

*Description.* Length, about 190 mm. (7.5 in.). Upper plumage, olive-brown, paler and with a fulvous tinge on the rump and upper tail-coverts. Wings and tail, brown, the feathers edged with fulvous brown. Chin and throat, whitish, shading into fulvous on the breast, abdomen and under tail-coverts. The throat and breast are generally faintly streaked with brown.

Iris, yellowish brown. Bill, dark horny above, dusky flesh-colour or dusky yellow below. Mouth, orange or orange yellow. Legs, yellowish plumbeous.

This bird is very similar in size, colouration and general appearance to *Arundinax aëdon* (The Thick-billed Warbler) which is described below, though the bill of the latter is smaller and somewhat differently shaped. The main point of difference, however, is in the comparative length of the first primary, as will be seen by reference to the accompanying Plate, for the drawing of which I am indebted to Mr. E. Healey. In *Acrocephalus orientalis* the first primary is very minute, while in *Arundinax aëdon* it is about 25 mm. (1 in.) long.

*Habits, etc.* This bird is a winter visitor to Bangkok, and is to be found here from October to nearly the middle of May—being one of the last of our cold weather visitants to depart. I have generally observed it on trees and bushes near our rush-grown canals and roadside ditches, but it is apparently not entirely arboreal in its habits, as I have several times seen it hopping about on the ground. It is, I believe, strictly insectivorous in its diet.

The note of this bird is a loud and harsh *chik-clak* (not unlike the sound produced by a pair of gardener's shears), interspersed with a harsh *kr-r-r* or *chr-r-r*.

*Distribution.* This bird does not appear to have been previously recorded from Siam, and I have only met with it, in Bangkok, in the neighbourhood of Khlong Sathon and Khlong T̄-i, though it is doubtless to be found in suitable localities in other parts of the suburbs.

13 (374). **Orthotomus sutorius.** *The Indian Tailor-bird.*

Siamese, นกกระเรียน (Nok krachib krasai).

*Description.* Length, about 120 mm. (4.75 in.), except in summer, which is the breeding season, when the male is found with the centre pair of tail feathers longer than at other times of the year by 51 mm. (2 in.), or more. Forehead and up to the middle of the crown, rufous—shading off on the remainder of the crown and nape into the yellowish-green of the rest of the upper plumage. Lower plumage, dull white, dusky on the sides of the body, and with a faint rufous tinge on the abdomen; thighs, deeper rufous.

Iris and eyelid, yellowish brown to reddish yellow. Bill, dark horny above, pale flesh-colour below. Legs, reddish flesh-colour.

*Habits, etc.* The Indian Tailor-bird is one of our permanent residents, and is to be found in every garden in Bangkok. It is a familiar and active little bird, continually on the move, hopping about low trees, bushes, etc., searching for the small insects on which it feeds, and it frequently enters the verandahs of houses for the same purpose. Its note, which is a surprisingly loud one for so small a bird, is a vibrant and penetrating *chiu-chiu-chiu* repeated times without number,

especially during the breeding season. When so calling, a conspicuous black mark is noticeable on each side of the neck, owing to the feathers opening out and showing their black bases.

*Distribution.* With the exception of Oates' statement that this bird "extends into Siam," and the reference to it in Flower's short list of Bangkok birds mentioned in the introduction to this paper, I can find no other record of its occurrence in this country.

14 (375). *Orthotomus atrigularis*. *The Black-throated Tailor-bird.*

Siamese, นกกระจับ กระไซคอดำ (Nok krachib krasai kho dam).

*Description.* Very similar in size and colouration to the preceding species, from which it differs mainly in having the whole of the crown rufous or chestnut, the throat (in the adult male), black, and the edge of the wing, the under wing-coverts and the under tail-coverts, yellow.

Iris, pale reddish brown. Bill, brown above, flesh-colour below. Legs, flesh-colour.

*Habits, etc.* This bird has much the same habits as the previous species, but keeps to well-wooded tracts, with a good deal of undergrowth. The only locality in which I have met with it here is on the west side of the river, among the fruit and betel-nut gardens in the Bansaikai district, though it is doubtless to be found in other suitable places in the outskirts of Bangkok. It is common in the district mentioned. The notes of this bird consist of a short but pleasant trill, *kr-r-rui*, *kr-r-rui*, as well as a longer and more liquid *chr-r-r-r-r*.

*Distribution.* Also occurs in Eastern and Northern Siam (Gyldenstolpe).

15 (381). *Cisticola cursitans*. *The Rufous Fantail-Warbler.*

*Description.* Length, about 101 mm. (4 in.). Upper plumage, dark brown, with rufous margins to the feathers, giving the bird a streaked appearance; rump, plain rufous; tail feathers, tipped with white. Lower plumage, buffy white, except flanks and thighs, which are rufous.

Iris, light yellowish brown. Bill, brown above, flesh-coloured below. Legs, pinkish flesh. In the breeding season the mouth is black.

*Habits, etc.* This small bird is common in the fields round Bangkok, especially those which are fallow. It is fond of soaring in the air, with rather a jerky flight, caused by the momentary closing of its wings after every few beats, and, while so doing, it utters at regular intervals its sharp little staccato note of *chi-chi*. It dives to the ground from a height, with a sudden and almost vertical swoop.

*Distribution.* I have been unable to trace any previous record of the occurrence of this bird in Siam.

16 (393). *Arundinax aëdon*. *The Thick-billed Warbler.*

*Description.* Length, about 197 mm. (7.75 in.). Upper plumage, fulvous olive-brown, brightest on the rump; lores, whitish. Chin and throat, buffish white; remainder of lower plumage, yellowish brown, paler on the centre of the abdomen.

Iris, brown. Bill, dark brown above, flesh-colour below. Mouth, salmon-colour. Legs, plumbeous.

As already mentioned, this bird is very similar in appearance to *Acrocephalus orientalis*, from which, however, it is readily distinguished by its comparatively long first primary, vide Plate, page 83.

*Habits, etc.* This is a cold weather visitor, though apparently not very common. I have obtained it from October to April.

*Distribution.* Gyldenstolpe also records this bird (under the name of *Luscinola aëdon*) from Den Chai, in Northern Siam, where he obtained a single specimen.

17 (410). *Phylloscopus fuscatus*. *The Dusky Willow-Warbler.*

*Description.* Length, 133 mm. (5.25 in.). Upper plumage, earthy brown, with a yellowish tinge on the rump; a distinct whitish supercilium from the forehead to the nape. Lower plumage, yellowish brown, whiter on the chin, throat and centre of abdomen.

Iris, brown. Bill, dark brown above, dusky yellow below. Mouth, yellow. Legs, dusky flesh-colour to greenish yellow.

*Habits, etc.* This bird is only found here in the cold weather, and is fairly common in our gardens during that period. My specimens were obtained from November to April. It flits and hops about bushes and low trees, searching for small insects, and has a sharp little note of *chik*, repeated at intervals.

*Distribution.* There appears to be no previous record of the occurrence of this bird in Siam.

18 (417). **Phylloscopus superciliosus.** *The Crowned Willow-Warbler.*

*Description.* Length, about 101 mm. (4 in.). Upper plumage, olive-green, darker on the crown; a distinct greenish yellow supercilium from the forehead to the nape; two pale yellow bars on the wings, most of the quills of which have narrow whitish tips. Lower plumage, whitish to yellowish white.

The crown has an irregular and indistinct longitudinal streak of greenish grey (which, however, is not always visible), from which the bird derives its English name.

Iris, brown. Bill, brown above, yellowish white below. Mouth, yellow. Legs, brownish flesh-colour.

*Habits, etc.* This small bird is a cold weather visitor, from October to about January, and is fairly common in our gardens during those months. It appears to frequent trees more than bushes, and is always on the move, hunting for its small insect prey, which it occasionally takes on the wing by a sudden dart of a few inches from its perch. It continually jerks its wings, while flitting about the branches, and has a pretty little note of *tweet, tweet*, repeated several times.

*Distribution.* Also recorded from Trang (Robinson and Kloss), and Eastern and Northern Siam (Gyldenstolpe).

19 (420). **Acanthopneuste borealis.** *The Arctic Willow-Warbler.*

*Description.* Length, 122 mm. (4.8 in.). Upper plumage, dark olive-green, lighter on the rump; a well-defined yellowish white supercilium reaching from the forehead to the nape; two yellowish

white wing-bars. Lower plumage, yellowish white, dusky brown on the flanks.

Iris, brown. Bill, dark brown above, yellowish horn-colour below, dusky at the tip. Mouth, yellow. Legs, yellowish brown.

*Habits, etc.* This bird also is a winter visitor, and has much the same habits and note as *Phylloscopus fuscatus* ( page 86 ), to which it also bears a close general resemblance. The present species may, however, be distinguished by its very minute first primary ( that of *P. fuscatus* being fully one-third the length of the wing ), by the greenish tinge on its upper plumage, the yellowish tinge on its lower parts, and the presence of the yellowish white bars on the wings. These bars, however, are sometimes indistinct, or almost wanting, owing to the wearing away of the feathers.

*Distribution.* Also recorded from Trang by Robinson and Kloss under the name of *Phylloscopus borealis*.

20 ( 468 ). *Prinia blanfordi*. *The Burmese Wren-Warbler.*

Siamese, นกกระจับหางเรียว ( Nok krachib hang rīo )

*Description.* Length, from 132 mm. ( 5.2 in. ) to 152 mm. ( 6 in. ), according to season—the tail being longer in the winter. Upper plumage, earthy brown, darker on the head and paler on the rump, which has a fulvous tinge ; a whitish supercilium reaching to just behind the eye. Lower plumage, whitish, with buff tinge ; thighs, deeper buff ; under side of tail feathers, with black bands near the tips.

Iris, clear brownish yellow. Bill, brown, except base of lower mandible, which is pale flesh-colour. Legs, pale reddish yellow.

*Habits, etc.* A resident species, and common along our suburban khlongs and other similar places with rushes and high grass growing by the waterside. It is a slender little brown bird, with rather a long tail ( hence the words *hang rīo*, in the Siamese name, meaning “ tapering-tailed ” ), and has a sibilant, almost insect-like, note of *chree-chree-chree-chree* repeated a great many times.

*Distribution.* Reported also from Eastern and Northern Siam ( Gyldenstolpe ).

## Family LANIIDÆ—Shrikes.

21 (475). *Lanius nigriceps*. *The Black-headed Shrike*.

Siamese, นกแก้วตาไว (Nok kēo-tā wai).

*Description.* Length, up to 279 mm. (11 in.). Tail, 157 mm. (6.2 in.).† Upper portion of head from forehead to hind neck, black; back, rump and upper tail-coverts, chestnut; wing-coverts, black; quills, dark brown, tipped with rufous; a white patch at the base of the primaries; tail-feathers, black, most of them tipped with rufous. Chin, throat and breast, white, the last with a rufous tinge; middle of abdomen, whitish; remainder of lower plumage, rather bright rufous.

In the young the upper parts are grey, with a rufous tinge, barred with brown—the bars also appearing on the lower plumage.

Iris, dark brown. Bill, black, except base of lower mandible, which is fleshy plumbeous. Legs, dark brown.

*Habits, &c.* This is a resident species, and is not uncommon in the more open parts of the suburbs. It is somewhat solitary in its habits, and is usually to be seen perched on a fence, post, or bare branch of a bush or low tree, watching for insects, which it captures on the ground and carries back to its perch to devour. Its flight is rather weak, and is usually confined to a straight course, a few feet above the ground, from one perch to another. While generally rather silent, this bird occasionally utters a harsh single note, repeated three or four times.

The Siamese name signifies "Sharp-eyed Bird".

*Distribution.* Also recorded from Central Siam (Gyldenstolpe).

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† These are the measurements of one of my birds. The form found in Siam is distinguished from the corresponding Indian bird principally by its greater dimensions—the tail, for instance, measuring about 6.25 in. against 5 in.—and is recorded by Gyldenstolpe, in conformity with the new trinomial system, under the name of *Lanius nigriceps longicaudatus*.

22 (481). *Lanius cristatus*. *The Brown Shrike*.

Siamese, นกกระจาบทวีโต (Nok krachāb hua tō)

*Description.* Length, about 197 mm. (7.75 in.). Forehead, whitish; supercilium, white; a broad black band through and beneath the eye; upper plumage, reddish brown, paler and redder on the rump and upper tail-coverts; wing-coverts and quills, dark brown, edged with pale rufous; tail, reddish brown with pale tips. Cheeks, chin and throat, whitish; remainder of lower plumage, fulvous. Birds not fully adult have the eye-streak dark brown and the lower parts more or less barred, according to age—still younger ones also showing traces of bars above. Adult birds are rare.

Iris, dark brown. Bill, dark horn-colour, except basal portion, which is pale plumbeous. Legs, dark plumbeous.

*Habits, etc.* This is a common cold weather visitor, its period of occurrence being from September to April. It has much the same habits as the preceding species, but is a more familiar bird, nearly always to be found in our gardens, while here, and making its presence known by its harsh notes. It has a variety of these, which it frequently utters.

The words *hua tō*, in the Siamese name for this bird, signify "big-headed". This is a not inappropriate term, as the head is, proportionately, rather large.

*Distribution.* Reported also from Trang (Robinson and Kloss), and Northern Siam (Gyldenstolpe).

23 (500). *Pericrocotus peregrinus*. *The Small Minivet*.

Siamese, นกสีชมพูทอง (Nok si ch'hom-p'hu dong).

*Description.* Length, 152 mm. (6 in.). *Male.* Upper parts, dark grey, except the rump and upper tail-coverts, which are orange-scarlet; wings, blackish, all the quills, with the exception of the first four or five primaries, with a median patch varying from pale red to scarlet; tail, blackish, most of the feathers with the terminal portions pale scarlet. Chin, throat and fore neck, blackish grey; breast, scarlet, passing into the saffron of the remainder of the lower plumage. *Female.* Upper plumage, paler grey than in the male; wings, brown,



with the wing-patch, pale orange. Chin, throat and breast, greyish white; remainder of lower plumage, pale yellow.

Iris, not recorded. Bill and legs, black.

*Habits, etc.* This beautiful little bird is a resident species, and is not uncommon in the well-wooded parts of the suburbs, such as those with extensive areas of betel-nut and fruit gardens. It is of strictly arboreal habit, and goes about in small flocks searching for insects among the leaves and branches of the trees.

The Siamese name for this species means the "Jungle Pink-bird".

*Distribution.* The only other recorded locality which I can trace is Eastern Siam (Gyldenstolpe), but I have had specimens sent to me from Hua Hin.

24 (503). **Pericrocotus cinereus.** *The Ashy Minivet.*

*Description* Length, 203 mm. (8 in.). Forehead, whitish; lores, a band through the eye, the posterior half of the crown and the nape, black; remainder of upper plumage, dark grey; wings, brown to blackish, with a white wing-bar; tail, black, all the feathers more or less white at the tip with the exception of the two middle pairs. Lower plumage, ashy white, darker on the flanks

Iris, brown. Bill and legs, black.

*Habits, etc.* Apparently a cold weather visitor and not very common. I have only two specimens of this bird, shot on the east side of the river in January, but Mr. E. G. Herbert informs me that he has seen it in March, on the west side. Neither of my birds is in full adult plumage.

*Distribution.* There appears to be no previous record of the occurrence of this species in Siam.

25 (512). **Artamus fuscus.** *The Ashy Swallow-Shrike.*

Siamese, นกเข้มนพง (Nok ēn p'hong).

*Description.* Length, 185 mm. (7.3 in.). Lores, black; head and neck all round, deep grey; back, rump and shorter upper tail-

coverts, grey-brown with a vinaceous tinge; longer upper tail-coverts, whitish; wings, deep grey; tail, dark grey, tipped with whitish. Breast and abdomen, greyish brown, paler on the breast; under tail-coverts, brownish white.

Iris, dark brown (Oates). Bill, plumbeous blue, except tip, which is blackish. Legs, slate-colour (Oates).

*Habits, etc.* This is probably a resident species, though I have only obtained specimens in July and August. Its flight is strong and graceful, and it spends a considerable part of its time in the air, hawking for insects, but when at rest it usually takes up its position on an exposed branch of a tree. While on the wing, it has a swallow-like appearance; hence its English and Siamese names—the latter meaning “Jungle-Swallow”.

*Distribution.* The only previous record I can find of its occurrence in this country is Oates' statement that it “extends into Siam.”

( To be continued. )

