

was found on June the 11th. Another with well fledged birds was found on the following day. The first nest was on one of the outer branches near the top of a high durian tree. It was built of fine fibre which was stuck on to the upper side of a branch, and then coated with lichen, so that it resembled a knot or excrescence on the branch. It was a flat cup-shaped nest measuring $3\frac{1}{4}$ in. diameter outside, by $\frac{3}{4}$ in. deep, and it was only with the greatest difficulty that it could be made out, even with glasses. The other nest was stuck on to the leaf-stem of a high betel palm, and was almost as difficult to see. In both cases the nests were only found by watching the parent birds carrying food to the young, and it would be practically impossible to find a nest without watching the birds either building or feeding the young.

E. G. HERBERT.

August, 1914.

No. X—OCCURRENCE OF THE CHINESE FRANCOLIN
(*FRANCOLINUS CHINENSIS*) IN BANGKOK.

In the Preliminary List of the Birds of Bangkok by Mr. W.J.F. Williamson, published in Vol. I No. 1, of this *Journal*, the number opposite the name Chinese Francolin, is marked with an asterisk to indicate that no specimens have been obtained, although the occurrence of the bird is believed to be tolerably certain. I believe the occurrence is quite certain, but I consider that the birds in question have either escaped from captivity, or been freed for the purpose of making merit, or are the offspring of such birds. I do not know that it would be correct to describe birds bred in this way as "of Bangkok," except in a very limited sense. I have had occasion to move about a good deal in Krungtep (Bangkok) Province, both in the wet and dry seasons, and I have never seen any of these birds, or heard of them as indigenous or likely to be found. They are birds of the higher dry lands, preferably with some bush-jungle about for cover, and there I have found them, but such country does not exist in Bangkok Province. Several years ago I was in the northern part of the Province, in Klawng Rangsit district, where the land had not yet been taken up for cultivation, and was covered with grass jungle. There, if anywhere—the jungle being more or less undisturbed—one would have expected to hear of them, but I never either saw or heard them. Some

years ago one of these birds took up its abode in the N. E. corner of the compound of what was the Survey school (now the Civil Service College) at Sapatum, when I lived there. It was there for some three months at least in the wet season, and never moved from the same position within a radius, say, of 60 yards. I believe it kept on the high banks of the roadside and boundary cuttings. I never saw it, but it called so constantly, presumably in the search for a mate, that attention could not fail to be attracted to it. The call is unmistakable, being a flat somewhat hoarse crow, like that of an ordinary domestic cock with a cold in its throat, and may be nearly rendered by the syllables *Kāk*, *Kāk-Kāk*, *Kā-Kāh*. These birds are often kept in captivity in cages in Bangkok, and I never had any doubt that this was one which had escaped. Its call attracted the attention of passers-by on the public road, and more than once I had to warn off persons with guns who entered the compound in pursuit of it. Possibly one of them got it in the end, for after a time its call was heard no more. I see no reason why these birds should not be able to live in patches of grass or bush-jungle on raised ground near Bangkok. I understand they have been found in one or two such spots. There is hardly any such ground in Bangkok or neighbourhood which has not been artificially raised. The generality of the country about is low-lying, and is more or less flooded during the rains, and is thus quite unsuited to these birds and dissimilar to their ordinary habitat. I should say that, even if they bred to some extent, they would be liable, on account of the damp, to disease similar to grouse disease in England, and would soon die out.

A. J. IRWIN.

Bangkok, 15th July, 1914.

[As the Chinese Francolin is a Siamese bird, and is admittedly found at large in the environs of Bangkok, it is, we think, properly included in Mr. Williamson's list, though Mr. Irwin's explanation of its presence here may be correct. Eds.]

NO. XI.—SOME INTERESTING BIRDS FOUND NEAR THE WESTERN BOUNDARY.

The following notes on birds, shot on my recent trip from Raheng down the Me Klong river, may be of interest to members