

### No. III. Two new Bush-Larks from Siam.

By E. C. STUART BAKER, F. Z. S., F. L. S., M. B. O. U.

WITH NOTE BY W. J. F. WILLIAMSON, M. B. O. U.

[From the *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club*, No. CCX (1915), pp. 9 and 10 ]

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker exhibited specimens of a new subspecies of Lark, which he proposed to call :—

MIRAFRA CANTILLANS WILLIAMSONI, subsp. nov.

He made the following remarks :—

“ The subspecies of Lark which I now exhibit I propose to name after Mr. W. J. F. Williamson, who discovered it at Bangkok, Siam, where it is said to be common. It is nearest, not to typical *M. cantillans* from West and Central India, but to *M. philippensis* from Manilla and the Philippines.

“ From *M. cantillans* it differs in being much smaller, with a wing varying between 68 and 73 mm. as against 73 to 82 mm. in that bird. The upper surface is very much darker and the lower surface also decidedly so. In *Mirafra cantillans cantillans* the general tone of the upper plumage is a rufous sandy, the pale edges of the feathers dominating the dark centres; in *M. c. williamsoni* the general aspect of the back is dark brown, the edges to the feathers being much narrower and grey or grey-brown in tint.

From *M. c. philippensis* it differs in being rather paler and less black above and in being decidedly darker and duller in tint below. Every specimen in the series also shows some rufous on the breast and flanks which is never present in *M. c. philippensis*, and there are also fewer black markings on the breast and lower throat than there are in that bird.

“ The types of the new subspecies are :—

♂ . 31.3.15. Bangkok.

♀ . 19.4.15. Bangkok.

which Mr. Williamson is presenting to the British Museum, together with others.

“ I also exhibit a series of eggs of this subspecies taken by Mr. Williamson round about Bangkok.”

[On page 197, vol. I ( 1915 ) of this Journal, I mentioned that I had submitted a number of specimens of a Bush-Lark, common round Bangkok, to Mr. H. C. Robinson, C. M. Z. S., M. B. O. U., for opinion, and that he had advised me, pending the examination of a series at the British Museum, to refrain from assigning to it any definite specific name.

Acting on this advice, I took a large series to England with me last year, and the bird has been accorded new subspecific rank as above.

This bird is a common Bangkok resident, being found in the open fields and along the road-sides of the suburbs, and is known to the Siamese as นกกระชาบฝน, Nok krachab fon. W. J. F. W.]

[From the *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club*, No. CCXI. Vol. XXXVI (1915), p. 34].

Mr. E. C. Stuart Baker exhibited two specimens of a new subspecies of *Mirafra*, for which he proposed the name:—

MIRAFRA ASSAMICA MARIONAE, subsp. nov.

He made the following observations:—

“The interesting specimens shown form a link between *Mirafra assamica* and *Mirafra microptera*, resembling the former most nearly in coloration and the latter in size.

“From *M. assamica* it also differs in being more brown and less grey above and paler below, whilst from *M. microptera* it differs in being grey-brown rather than rufous-brown or sandy brown and, generally, much darker. It has the same ill-defined nuchal markings as are to be found in *M. microptera*, but these are whitish instead of rufescent. The wing averages about 75.0 mm. or about the same as in *M. microptera* as against a full 84 mm. in *M. assamica*.

“I name this new Lark after Mrs. Marion Williamson, who obtained the specimens.

“The types are:—

♂ . Ayuthia, Central Siam, 8.7.14.

♀ .

These two skins, which are those of a pair killed by the same shot, have been presented to the Museum by Mr. Williamson.”

#### No. IV. The Giant Ibis (*Thaumatibis gigantea*).

The accompanying illustration is reproduced from a photograph of a specimen of this rare Ibis which was obtained by Mr. K. G. Gairdner at Ban Tup Takoh, near Chom Beung, Ratburi, in March 1913. The bird is now preserved at the British Museum (Natural History) where the photograph was taken, for this Journal, by the courtesy of the Museum authorities.

As stated by Robinson and Kloss (*Ibis* 1911, p. 17), the type specimen was procured by Oustalet in Cochin China, while Abbott obtained a second one in the interior of Trang, in Peninsular Siam, where also Robinson and Kloss procured one in February 1910. Mr. Gairdner's is thus the fourth known specimen, and he sends me the following interesting note on it:—

“It may be of some value to record the measurements of this specimen and also the colours of the soft parts two hours after death:—Length 38.5 inches; wing 21.5; tail 10; tarsus 4.5; bill to gape 8.5; bend of wing to top of head 9.