

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 นกกระจาบ ฝน, 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.

“Head and upper half of neck, naked, grey, but black in the folds; eye crimson; beak horn, half legs, tarsi and toes crimson. Sex uncertain, but believed to be a male.

“I think there is probably a seasonal or sexual difference in the colouration of the bare head, for I find that in 1910 I sent the following description of an Ibis to the British Museum, which identified the particulars as agreeing with this species.

“Observed at Sarahett on the Petchaburi river in April 1910 at about 50 yards distance, an Ibis, general colour dark brown, back of head *blue* and probably naked. Beak probably 8 inches, or same as head and neck. Was the size of a small pea-hen, and had the same hump back. Has a quicker, more feverish walk and flight than most waders or swamp birds. Only one seen, and frequenting the same ground as Pond Herons and White Necked Storks.’ I think that since I was near enough to get the length of the beak correct, probably the colour of the back of the head was also correct.

“The photo depicts the bird standing in a wide space, but as previously mentioned in this Journal (Vol. I., p. 39) the species haunts small swampy glades surrounded by tree jungle, and in 1913 I put up a pair from a grassy bank beside a small stream in ‘Pa Teng Rang’ (Lao, ‘Pa paa’), or jungle mostly of a species of *Shorea* near Ban Tup Takoh, Ratburi.”

W. J. F. WILLIAMSON.

Bangkok, May 1916.

#### No. V. Occurrence of the Barred Ground-Dove (*Geopelia striata*) in Siam.

In Vol. IV of the *Fauna of British India, Birds*, which appeared in 1898, this Dove is said (p. 52) to be found in the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago to the Philippines and Celebes, and to range into the extreme south of Tenasserim, but no mention is made of its occurrence in Siam. This, at first sight, is somewhat strange, as there are five skins of the bird in the British Museum, from Siam, which I have lately had the opportunity of examining, and all of them are of very old date. Three were collected in 1879 by Davison in Tongkah, *i. e.*, Puket, the fourth by Darling in the same year at Ta-rua (also in Puket), while the fifth is from the Gould collection and is labelled “Siam (Schomburgh)” without any date. With the exception of the last specimen, however, which may have been overlooked it is probable that the localities where the others were obtained were not recognised as Siamese.

On the other hand, Ogilvie-Grant in his Report on the Birds collected by Messrs. Annandale and Robinson in Perak and the Siamese Malay States<sup>1</sup> published in 1905, records two specimens of the Barred Ground-Dove from the Province of

1. (Fasc. Malay., III, p. 121).