

“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).



*Thaumatibis Gigantea.* The Giant Ibis.



Patani, in the extreme southern portion of what is now known as Peninsular Siam. Since then there appear to have been no further records from this country, with the exception of the entry in my Preliminary List of Bangkok Birds (Vol. I, No. 1, p 47 of this *Journal*, 1914), despite the not inconsiderable collections made by Messrs. Robinson and Kloss in Trang, Peninsular Siam<sup>1</sup>, by Count Gyldenstolpe, mainly in Central, Eastern and Northern Siam<sup>2</sup>, by Mr. H. C. Robinson in Bandon, Koh Samui and Koh Pennan, Peninsular Siam<sup>3</sup>, and again by Mr. C. Boden Kloss in Southern-eastern Siam<sup>5</sup>. Mention ought also, perhaps, to be made here of the fact that Stuart-Baker<sup>4</sup> remarks that the Barred Ground-Dove is "found in Siam, but is apparently rare there, and was never met with by Count Gyldenstolpe during his expedition in 1911-12."

In view of the above facts, it may be worth while recording that this species is fairly common in Bangkok, and is often to be seen in our gardens, walking quietly about on the ground, singly or in pairs, or perched on a tree. Its ordinary note is a *Ku-kuru ku-ku-ku-ku*, always uttered from a perch, so far as I have observed, and it is frequently caught in a cage-trap containing a decoy bird, which attracts the wild ones by its call. Hundreds of this gentle little Dove are also to be seen in the bird-shops of Bangkok (imported from Singapore), and there appears to be little doubt that, although it is now well-established here and breeds freely (I have taken its eggs in February and June), it is an introduced species, so far as this part of Siam is concerned. The fact of the bird being known to the Siamese as

นกเขาจันทรา (*Nok-khao-Ch'hawa*), *i e*, the Javanese Dove, also appears to confirm the conjecture as to its foreign origin. Patani and Puket are, of course, well within its range, as they are both south of the Isthmus of Kra (10' 30" N. Lat.), but if the bird extends into the south of Tenasserim, it ought also to be found in the northern portion of Peninsular Siam, as far as Chumpon, which is in the same latitude as Kra. It is rather surprising, therefore, that Messrs. Robinson and Kloss did not meet with it either in Trang or in Bandon, which are much further south.

W. J. F. WILLIAMSON.

Bangkok, 24th June 1916.

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1. *Ibis*, 1910, pp. 559-675, and 1911, pp. 10-80.
  2. *Kungl. Svenska Vetenskapsakademiens Handlingar*. Band 50, No. 8, 1913.
  3. *Journ Fed. Malay States Mus.*, Vol. V., No. 3 (1915), pp. 83-110 and 139-150.
  4. *Indian pigeons and Doves*, 1913 p. 254.
  5. *Ibis*, 1915, pp. 718-761.