

THE  
JOURNAL  
OF THE  
Natural History Society of Siam

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Volume II.

BANGKOK.

Number 3.

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THE BIRDS OF BANGKOK.

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(Continued from Vol. I, No. 3, p. 210.)

Since the last instalment of this Paper appeared, two important contributions to the ornithology of Siam have been published, *viz.*, those of Mr. H. C. Robinson, M.B.O.U., C.M.Z.S., "On Birds collected by Mr. C. Boden Kloss, F.R.G.S., M.B.O.U., on the Coast and Islands of South-Eastern Siam," which appeared in the *Ibis* for October 1915, pp. 718-761, and Count Nils Gyldenstolpe's "Zoological Results of the Swedish Zoological Expeditions to Siam, 1911-12 and 1914-15, Part IV, Birds II," published in the *Kungl. Svenska Vetenskapsakademiens Handlingar*, Band 56, No. 2, 1916. The former records 100 species obtained during a short expedition in which, as explained by the author and the collector in the introduction to the Paper, the collection of birds was only a secondary object—the principal purpose of Mr. Kloss' visit being the investigation of the island races of mammals. Nevertheless, some interesting specimens were procured. The latter Paper deals with the 353 species obtained or observed during Count Gyldenstolpe's two lengthy visits to Siam, and is the most important account of any collection of Siamese birds which has yet been published.

In the introductory remarks to the first part of the present Paper it was stated that the classification and nomenclature of the species to be described would be those adopted in the *Fauna of British India—Birds*, by Oates and Blanford, and that the numbers in brackets, preceding the names of the birds, would be those given in that work.

Further, that species not included in the *Preliminary List of the Birds of Bangkok* (vide Vol. I, No. I of this *Journal*, pp. 41-48), would be marked with an asterisk (\*). For the sake of uniformity this arrangement will be continued, but as, in the interval, the employment of the trinomial system of nomenclature has made considerable progress, and as a number of the birds still to be dealt with in this Paper have been accorded subspecific rank in recent contributions to the ornithology of Siam, a brief synonymy will hereafter be given in the case of every bird recorded by other collectors. For the sake of brevity, Count Gyldenstolpe's two Papers published in the *Kungl. Svenska Vetenskapsakademiens Handlingar*, Band 50, No. 8, 1913, and Band 56, No. 2, 1916, will be quoted as "Gyldenstolpe 1913" and "Gyldenstolpe 1916," respectively.

Family *TURDIDÆ*—Chats, Robins, Thrushes, &c.

40 (610). *Pratincola maura* (Pall.) *The Indian Bush-Chat*.

*Pratincola torquata stejnegeri*, Gyldenstolpe 1913, p. 30; id. 1916, p. 51.

*Description*. Length about 127 mm. (5 in.). *Male*. Head and neck all round black; back also black, but with (in winter plumage) rufous margins to the feathers, giving a mottled appearance, which, however, disappears as the season advances and the rufous edges get worn; rump and upper tail-coverts white, sometimes suffused with rufous; wing dark brown, with a white patch caused by the innermost wing-coverts—the quills being edged with rufous on the outer webs and tips; tail blackish brown to black; a large white patch on the side of the neck; breast orange-rufous; remainder of lower plumage paler rufous. *Female*. Whole upper plumage brown (with rufous margins to the feathers), except the upper tail-coverts which are pale rufous; no white patch on the side of the neck; wings and tail as in the male; chin and throat pale fulvous; remainder of lower plumage orange-fulvous.

Iris dark brown. Bill, legs, feet and claws blackish brown to black.

*Habits, &c.* This is a cold weather visitor to Bangkok, and occurs here, so far as my observations go, from October to April. It



is to be found in the more open parts of the suburbs and in the surrounding fields, and has a habit of perching on the top of any convenient stalk or tuft of grass, low bush or fence. My experience is that it is a wary little bird, and difficult to approach. Like all Chats, it feeds entirely on insects, which it takes on the ground, and then returns immediately to its post of observation.

*Distribution.* This bird is probably to be found in suitable localities, in the cold weather, throughout the country. Besides Bangkok, where it is fairly common, it has been obtained by Gyldenstolpe from Eastern, Northern and Peninsular Siam.

41 (650). **Calliope camtschatkensis** (Gmel.) *The Common Ruby-throat.*

*Description.* Length about 152 mm. (6 in.). *Male.* Whole upper plumage olive-brown, the head slightly darker; a line from the forehead over the eye white; lores and partly under the eye black; a broad moustachial streak white; throat and foreneck scarlet—the scarlet patch, in the case of fully adult birds, being bordered by black; upper breast greyish brown, paler on the lower breast and the sides of the body; abdomen and under tail-coverts whitish. *Female.* Differs from the male chiefly in having the lores dusky brown instead of black; the moustachial streak olive-brown and not white; and the throat and foreneck whitish instead of scarlet.

Iris dark brown. Bill dark horn-colour, except the gape and the base of the lower mandible, which are dull whitish. Mouth dusky flesh-colour. Legs and feet dusky flesh-colour, paler on the hinder portion of the tarsus and on the soles. Claws horn-colour.

*Habits, &c.* A cold weather visitor, of which I have obtained a few specimens in the months of January to March. The bird is a great skulker and keeps to the ground in the cover of thick bushes and undergrowth, so is difficult both to observe and obtain. It is, I believe, entirely insectivorous. The brilliant red throat of the males is a most distinctive and attractive feature of the colouration of this bird, but owing to its retiring habits it is, unfortunately, never seen unless carefully sought for in its haunts.

*Distribution.* I recorded this species in 1914 (*Journ. N. H. S. Siam* I, p. 44) and have obtained a specimen or two every year since

then, but it does not appear to have been procured or observed by any other collector in Siam, and I myself have not met with it outside Bangkok. The bird must, of course, occur in other parts of the country also, in the cold weather, but it escapes observation owing to its skulking disposition.

42 (663). *Copsychus saularis* (Linn.). *The Magpie-Robin*.

*Copsychus saularis*, Gyldenstolpe 1913, p. 39 : Gairdner, Journ. N. H. S. Siam I, p. 149.

*Copsychus saularis saularis*, Gyldenstolpe 1916, p. 50.

Siamese, <sup>๕</sup>นกกิ้งกhen (Nok king-khen).

*Description.* Length about 203 mm. (8 in.). *Male.* Head, neck, breast and upper plumage glossy black; abdomen, sides of body and under tail-coverts white; wing brownish black—the last two secondaries with a considerable amount of white on the outer webs, and the wing-coverts also largely white; median two pairs of tail feathers black, the next pair with the base and a variable amount of the inner (and sometimes also the outer) web black—the remaining pairs with a decreasing amount of black, the outermost pair usually having only a trace of that colour on the extreme base of the feathers\*; under wing-coverts and axillaries usually white, with ashy bases and centres varying in extent, but in some specimens the central and basal portions of the feathers are almost black. *Female.* Whole upper plumage dark brown, glossed with bluish; wings and tail dark brown, with white distributed as in the male; chin, throat, breast and sides of neck dark grey; middle of abdomen whitish; remainder of abdomen, sides of body and under tail-coverts pale fulvous; under wing-coverts and axillaries as in the male.

Iris brown. Bill black. Legs dark plumbeous. Claws horn colour.

*Habits, &c.* This is the familiar black and white bird, which is a permanent resident here and to be found in every Bangkok garden. It is a good songster and also has some fine whistling notes, its song being usually uttered from the topmost twig of a tree, the ridge of a roof or other elevated point of vantage, and it is particularly vocal

\* The colouration of the tail-feathers, here given, is described from a dozen Bangkok specimens in my possession. It differs, in several particulars, from the description to be found in the *Fauna of British India*, Birds II, p. 117.



towards evening. The Magpie-Robin is also one of the first birds to commence calling in the morning, and I have, on many occasions, heard it utter a few notes well on in the night. For the rest, it spends much of its time on the ground, where it feeds on insects, and has a habit of taking a short run, every now and then, at the end of which, as well as when alighting on a perch, it elevates its tail perpendicularly.

*Distribution.* To be found throughout the country in, and near, towns, villages and human habitations. I have not met with the bird in heavy forest—its natural habitat being light jungle or garden land. It would thus be absent also from treeless plains.

43 (692). ***Petrophila solitaria*** (P.L.S. Müll.). *The Eastern Blue Rock-Thrush.*

*Petrophila solitaria*, Robinson and Kloss, Ibis 1911, p. 64.

*Monticola solitarius philippensis*, Gyldenstolpe, Journ. N. H. S. Siam I, p. 170 ; Robinson, Ibis 1915, p. 752, Gyldenstolpe 1916, p. 48.

*Description.* Length about 241 mm. (9.5 in.). *Adult male.*

Whole upper plumage, with neck and breast, dull blue, paler on the throat, lower back and upper tail-coverts—most of the feathers being tipped whitish and with a subterminal black bar ; quills and tail blackish, edged with bluish and with each feather very narrowly tipped whitish ; vent, under tail-coverts, axillaries and under wing-coverts chestnut, the same colour sometimes extending to the abdomen. *Female and immature male.* Whole upper plumage very dull blue, most of the feathers being edged whitish and with a black subterminal bar, as in the adult male ; quills and tail dark brown, edged with dull bluish and tipped whitish ; whole lower plumage and the sides of the head and neck pale buffy white, each feather subterminally edged with black ; under wing-coverts, axillaries and under tail-coverts suffused with rufous and irregularly barred with black. In the immature male the abdomen is also sometimes more or less rufous.

In both sexes the whitish tips and subterminal bars to the feathers become abraded towards the end of winter, and the plumage becomes more uniform in appearance. Further, according to Oates (*Fauna, British India*, Birds II, p. 146), the amount of chestnut on the lower parts varies, being generally present on the under tail-coverts, and only in a few cases extending to the abdomen (? and under wing-coverts) in varying quantities. He adds that birds in typical



plumage (*i.e.*, with the abdomen fully chestnut) are only found in Japan and the islands of the China seas. In the two specimens I have obtained, one (an apparently fully adult male, from Sriracha, South-eastern Siam) has rufous only on the vent and under tail-coverts, while in the other (a younger male, from Bangkok), the vent, under tail-coverts and under wing-coverts and axillaries are bright chestnut, and traces of that colour extend up the abdomen. Oates further states that the cause of this variation is not known, but may be attributed either to climatic reasons or to the interbreeding of this and the next species, *Petrophila cyanus*.

*Habits, &c.* This is a cold weather visitor to Siam, from Japan and Northern China. It is fond of perching on the roofs of houses and on posts in gardens, and I have seen a Blue Rock-Thrush, either of this or the next species, on the rocks near the sea at Koh Lak, in Peninsular Siam. The bird is usually found solitary, and not only do its habits make it easy to observe, but my experience is that it has little fear of man.

*Distribution.* Recorded from Northern, Central, Southern-eastern and Peninsular Siam. Judging by the number of specimens obtained in the several divisions of the country, as noted in the Papers quoted in the synonymy, it appears to be commonest in South-eastern Siam, and to be rather rare elsewhere. This is certainly the case in Bangkok, where I have only obtained this bird once, in January.

44 (693). *Petrophila cyanus* (Linn.). *The Western Blue Rock-Thrush.*

*Monticola cyanea*, Gyldenstolpe, Journ. N. S. H. Siam I, p. 170; id., 1916, p. 47.

*Description.* Length about 241 mm. (9.5 in.). In both sexes the colouration is very similar to that of *P. solitaria*, described above, but without any trace of chestnut or rufous on the under parts.

*Habits, &c.* Precisely similar to those of the preceding species, than which, however, it is much commoner, though not by any means plentiful. I have obtained altogether five specimens here, during the months of January and February, and one at the beginning of April, besides a few more in other parts of the country, from October to February.

*Distribution.* Recorded, up to the present, only from Northern,

Central and Peninsular Siam, but I have also procured it at Sriracha, in South-eastern Siam.

Family *PLOCEIDÆ*—Weaver-birds and Munias.

45 (721). *Ploceus megarhynchus*, Hume. *The Eastern Baya or Weaver-bird*.

*Ploceus megarhynchus*, Gairdner, Journ. N. H. S. Siam I, p. 149.

*Ploceus passerinus infortunatus*, Gyldenstolpe 1916, p. 28.

Siamese, นกกระจาบหัวเหลือง (Nok kra-chab hua-lüang).

*Description.* Length about 152 mm. (6 in.). *Male in winter, and female at all seasons.* Upper plumage fulvous streaked with brown, narrowly on the head and neck, more broadly on the back—the streaks becoming obsolete on the rump and upper tail-coverts; quills and tail dark brown, each feather edged with fulvous, the edges of the primaries and tail-feathers being also tinged with greenish; sides of the head fulvous brown; whole lower plumage fulvous, darker on the breast and flanks. *Male in summer.* Forehead, crown and nape bright yellow; sides of head, as well as chin and throat dark brown; breast tawny, paling to fulvous or albescent on the abdomen.

Iris brown. Bill; male, in winter, and female, at all seasons, brownish horn-colour, except base of lower mandible which is yellowish; male, in summer, black. Legs pale flesh-colour. Claws pale pinkish horn-colour.

*Habits, &c.* The Weaver-birds are highly gregarious, breeding in company in the summer, and being found in large flocks at other seasons. In Bangkok this bird is chiefly in evidence from April (when the male assumes its yellow crown) to nearly the end of the rains, as it is then busily engaged in building operations, and its long, hanging nests, usually suspended from the tips of branches, over water, are familiar to most residents in this city. While the nest-building is going on (and there appear to be a succession of broods during the breeding season) the birds keep up a constant chatter, and as the nests are nearly always in colonies, the volume of sound is sometimes considerable. These birds are quite fearless, and seem to be almost oblivious of the presence of man—a group of nests being often seen on a tree of no particular size within a few feet of a house.



I do not know whether this bird (and the remark also applies to the next species) remains in the neighbourhood of Bangkok during the winter. Personally, I have not met with it earlier in that season than February.

*Distribution.* Up the present only recorded from Northern, Central and Western Siam. Gyldenstolpe remarks (*op. cit. supra*, p. 29) that the Eastern Baya is "apparently rather rare" in Siam, but this is certainly not the case as regards Bangkok. During the summer (April to September) it is one of the commonest birds to be found in places suitable for its breeding, and I have had dozens of specimens, besides numerous nests and clutches of eggs. I have also found the bird breeding in some numbers at Ayuthia (about 45 miles north of Bangkok) in July, and Mr. K. G. Gairdner obtained three last year, which were shot in February at Raheng (in the northern part of Central Siam), out of a flock of from 100-200 individuals, feeding in long grass on the river bank.

46 (723). *Ploceus manyar* (Horsf.). *The Striated Weaver-bird.*

*Ploceus manyar flaviceps*, Gyldenstolpe 1916, p. 29.

Siamese, นกกระเจาหัวเหลือง ตก ดาย (Nok kra-chab hua-lüang ok-lai).

*Description.* Length about 140 mm. (5.5 in.). *Male in winter, and female at all seasons.* Upper plumage dark brown, each feather being edged with fulvous, giving a streaked appearance; quills and tail-feathers dark brown, the former edged with greenish yellow, the latter with pale yellowish; supercilium and a narrow patch behind the ear-coverts yellow; cheeks brown; lower plumage fulvous, pale on the chin, throat and abdomen—the feathers of the breast and flanks being streaked with dark brown down the centre of each feather.\* *Male in summer.* Forehead, crown and nape bright yellow; no yellow supercilium, or patch behind the ear-coverts; sides of head, as well as cheeks, chin and throat blackish brown.

Iris brown. Upper mandible; male, in winter, and female, at

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\* The description above given, which is taken from birds obtained in Bangkok, differs, to some extent, from that in the *Fauna of British India*, Birds II, p. 179.



all seasons, horn-colour ; lower mandible yellowish ; whole bill of male, in summer, dark horn-colour, except base of lower mandible which is paler. Legs pinkish to dusky flesh-colour ; claws horn-colour.

*Habits, &c.* Very similar to those of the last species, except that the nests are built in high grass, as well as on trees. In both cases a situation in close proximity to water appears to be almost invariably selected, and when placed in grass the nests are suspended from the extremities of a number of blades drawn together. Compared with those of *P. megarhynchos*, the nests of this species are very short, being only about 228 mm. (8 in.) in total length, against as much as 838 mm. (33 in.), for the former ; they are, therefore, much less conspicuous, even when placed in trees, which is, I think, the exception.

\* 47 (726). **Munia atricapilla** (Vieill.). *The Chestnut-bellied Munia.*

*Munia atricapilla rubronigra*, Gyldenstolpe 1916, p. 27.

*Description.* Length about 114 mm. (4.5 in.). Whole head, neck and upper breast black ; remainder of plumage chestnut, brighter and deeper on the rump and upper tail-coverts, and inclined to blackish on the middle of the abdomen and the under tail-coverts.

Iris dark brown. Bill leaden blue. Legs dark plumbeous.

*Distribution.* So far, apart from Bangkok, in Central Siam, this bird has only been recorded from the Northern portion of the Kingdom, but I have obtained it from Bangnara, in the extreme south of the Peninsular division of this country. As to its occurrence in Bangkok, it may be noted that in 1915 I added this bird to the list of local species (*Journ. N. H. S. Siam* I, p. 198), on the strength of information furnished by Mr. E. G. Herbert, who stated that he had seen it more than once in his compound on the west side of the river, and had shot it on Klong Dakhanong, a little further south. The fact may also be mentioned that Flower (*Ibis* 1898, p. 323) has recorded that he once saw a bird in his garden in Bangkok, which he believes was of this species. As, however, the Chestnut-bellied Munia is common in the bird-shops here, it is possible that the specimens observed at large may have been escapes from captivity. Personally, I have not come across the bird, nor have my collectors obtained it, in this locality.

48 (727). *Uroloncha acuticauda* (Hodgs.). *Hodgson's Munia*.

*Munia acuticauda*, Ogilvie-Grant, Fasc. Malay. Birds (1905), p. 69 ;  
Robinson, Journ. F. M. S. Mus. V. (1915), p. 151.  
*Uroloncha acuticauda*, Gyldenstolpe 1913, p. 40.

Siamese, นกกระโทก (Nok kra-thi).

*Description.* Length about 114 mm. (4.5 in.). Whole upper plumage dark brown, with a band of white across the rump, and with the edges of the upper tail-coverts pale—the shafts of all the feathers of the upper plumage being white ; wings, the feathers round the bill, and the chin, throat and upper breast blackish brown ; remainder of the breast dark brown, with pale margins and white shafts to the feathers ; abdomen and sides of the body whitish, mottled with brown ; thighs and under tail-coverts chocolate-brown, with white shafts.

Iris reddish brown to dull red (dark brown—Oates). Upper mandible blackish, lower mandible bluish plumbeous. Legs dark plumbeous. Claws dusky horn-colour.

*Habits, etc.* This is a resident bird, and is not uncommon. It appears to breed from January to August or September, as I have seen nests, or taken eggs, at intervals, during those months. The nest is a large one, for the size of the bird, and is an untidy, domed structure, made of dried grass-stems, with a hole at the side, and is placed either in the fork of a tree, at no great height from the ground, or in creepers, &c., against the side of a house. When not breeding, this *Munia* assembles in small flocks. Its note is a rather short *chr-chr*.

*Distribution.* Northern, Central and Peninsular Siam. Not yet recorded from the Western or South-eastern parts of the country.

49 (735). *Uroloncha punctulata* (Linn.). *The Spotted Munia*.

*Munia punctulata subundulata*, Gyldenstolpe 1916, p. 28.

Siamese, นกกระชาบ<sup>๕</sup> ขี้หมู (Nok kra-chab khi-mu).

*Description.* Length 123 mm. (4.8 in.). Upper plumage dull chocolate-brown, with the shafts of the feathers whitish ; lower rump paler and with whitish edges to the feathers ; tail brown ; wings



chocolate-brown, the outer webs dull rufous; sides of the head, chin and throat rich chestnut; lower plumage brown (each feather with a white centre-line and submarginally bordered with white), except the middle of the lower portion of the abdomen, which is uniform fulvous-white; under tail-coverts fulvous-white, with brown subterminal borders to the feathers.

Iris reddish brown. Bill blackish, except the base of the lower mandible, which is bluish plumbeous. Legs plumbeous. Claws horn-colour.

*Habits, etc.* Very similar to those of the last species, but it is much the commoner of the two. The bird is a resident one here, and when it once becomes established in a locality, is seldom absent from it. In my garden, for instance, it is nearly always to be found, but I believe there are parts of Bangkok (to all appearances equally suitable) where the bird is seldom or never seen. It breeds practically the whole year round. The nest is of the same type as that of *U. acuticauda*, but perhaps somewhat larger, and the bird is even more partial to creepers on houses and arbours than its congener. Its note is a weak and rather long *chee-chee*, uttered both while flying and when at rest. In flight the wings are vibrated very rapidly.

*Distribution.* Recorded, so far, only from Central and Peninsular Siam, but I have also obtained it at Sriracha, in the South-eastern portion of the country.

#### Family FRINGILLIDÆ--Finches.

50 (779). *Passer montanus* (Linn.) *The Tree-Sparrow.*

*Passer montanus*, Ogilvie-Grant, Fasc. Malay. Birds (1905), p. 70; Barton, Journ. N. H. S. Siam I, p. 106.

*Passer montanus malaccensis*, Gyldenstolpe 1913, p. 41; id. 1916, p. 29.

Siamese, นกกระชอกบ้าน (Nok kra-chok ban).

*Description.* Length about 140 mm. (5.5 in.). Upper part of head, from forehead to nape, vinous chestnut; sides of face and neck white, with the exception of the lores, the feathers under the eyes and a patch under the ear-coverts, which are black; chin and throat black; lower plumage ashy, paler on the abdomen, and tinged with fulvous on the breast; flanks, thighs and under tail-coverts brownish fulvous; back and scapulars pale chestnut, with the inner webs of most of the

feathers largely black; lesser wing-coverts dull chestnut; median coverts black, edged with white; greater coverts blackish, edged with pale chestnut and tipped with whitish; quills dark brown, edged with rufous, narrowly on the primaries and more broadly on the inner feathers; rump and upper tail-coverts pale chestnut-brown; tail brown, edged with pale rufous.

Iris brown. Bill black. Legs flesh-colour. Claws horn-colour.

*Distribution.* Recorded by Ogilvie-Grant and Gyldenstolpe from Peninsular Siam and by the latter also from the Eastern and Central divisions. So far, the bird does not appear to have been definitely reported from Northern or South-eastern Siam\*, but I have observed it at Sriracha, in the last mentioned part of the country.

*Habits, &c.* The so-called Tree-Sparrow is the common House-Sparrow of Bangkok, where it is exceedingly abundant. This bird has a wide range over Europe, Africa and Asia, and its trivial name of Tree-Sparrow is probably accounted for by the fact that in Europe it usually nests in trees, whereas in the East it generally builds in holes about houses and other buildings. This it certainly does in Bangkok.

51 (781). *Passer flaveolus* Blyth. *The Pegu Sparrow.*

*Passer flaveolus*, Gyldenstolpe 1916, p. 29.

Siamese, <sup>†</sup> นกกระชอก (Nok kra-chok pa).

*Description.* Length up to 152 mm. (6 in.). *Male.* The lores, chin and a broad stripe down the throat black; cheeks, centre of abdomen, under tail-coverts and under wing-coverts yellow; breast and flanks greenish grey; a patch extending from the eye to the sides of the nape chestnut; forehead, top of head, nape, and hind neck dark greenish grey; back, scapulars and lesser wing-coverts chestnut—the feathers fringed with greenish grey; lower back and rump greenish grey, slightly darker than the flanks; tail brown, edged with dull greenish grey; wing-feathers dark brown, edged with greenish. *Female.* The chin, throat, cheeks, a streak from the eye to the nape,

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\* Gyldenstolpe certainly observes (*op. cit. supra* 1913, p. 41) that this Sparrow is "very common.....over the whole country," but in the separate lists of species recorded from the different parts visited (given on pages 7-12 of the Paper), it only appears in those relating to Eastern and Central Siam.



and the whole lower plumage, with the under wing-coverts, pale yellow, suffused with dusky on the breast and flanks; the whole upper plumage hair-brown; median wing-coverts dark brown, edged with yellowish; greater wing-coverts and quills dark brown, edged with greenish brown; tail brown, narrowly edged paler.\*

Iris brown. Bill black in adult male, horn-colour in female and immature male. Legs dusky olive to plumbeous flesh-colour. Claws horn-colour.

*Distribution.* With the exception of my Bangkok record, this bird has apparently only been reported, up to the present, from Northern Siam. Gyldenstolpe remarks that it is "apparently very rare and only confined to the Northern parts of the country. However, Williamson records it from Bangkok, which seems to me a little doubtful." As to this I would observe that the bird is fairly common here, and that I have had altogether about 18 local specimens, and could have obtained many more. I have also seen it at Muak-lek, in Eastern Siam, and shot a pair (♂ and ♀) at Sriracha, in South-eastern Siam, in December. The only parts of the country from which it has not yet been reported are, therefore, the Western and Peninsular divisions, and these may be outside its range, as I have not been able to find any records of its occurrence in Tenasserim or the Malay Peninsula. As this Sparrow is known to extend to Cochin-China (*Faun. Brit. India*, Birds II, p. 242), its occurrence in Bangkok and in South-eastern Siam appears quite natural.

*Habits, &c.* In common with the last species, this is a resident here, but is not so familiar a bird, being not only less numerous, but also more partial to plantations and copses, rather than houses. At the same time, it not infrequently enters our gardens, and I have on two occasions found it nesting there—once, in Bangkok, in a hollow bamboo used for the scaffolding of a house under repair, and a second time under the ridge of the roof of a building in the compound of the railway station at Muak-lek, in Eastern Siam. I have generally observed this bird in pairs, and it is easily distinguished from its better-known congener by its brighter plumage, as well as by its louder and more pleasing notes.

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\* The descriptions here given differ to some extent from those of Oates in the *Fauna of British India*, Birds II, p. 242.

\*52 (797). *Emberiza aureola*, Pall. *The Yellow-breasted Bunting.*

*Emberiza aureola*, Ogilvie-Grant, Fasc. Malay. Birds (1905), p. 70 ;  
Gyldenstolpe, Journ. N. H. S. Siam 1, p. 171 ; id. 1916, p. 30.

*Description.* Length 157 mm. (6.2 in.). *Male in winter.* The whole upper plumage dull chestnut, each feather margined with ashy ; tail brown, edged ashy, the outermost feathers with a broad diagonal white band across the inner web, the penultimate with a similar but narrower band † ; median wing-coverts white ; greater coverts dark brown, edged with chestnut-brown and tipped whitish ; quills dark brown, the primaries narrowly edged paler, and the inner wing-feathers broadly margined with pale chestnut-brown ; the sides of the head dull yellow mingled with chestnut-brown ; the whole lower plumage yellow, with a chestnut band across the breast, and the sides of the body streaked with chestnut-brown—the under tail-coverts being very pale whitish yellow. *Male in summer.* In the spring the ashy margins of the feathers of the upper plumage become abraded and the general colour becomes a rich maroon-chestnut ; the pectoral band also becomes broader and of a deeper chestnut, while the forehead, anterior part of the crown, lores, ear-coverts, cheeks, chin and a small part of the throat become deep black. *Female.* Head chestnut-brown, with dark brown streaks ; nape and back of neck olive-brown, with indistinct brown streaks ; back olive-brown with broad dark brown streaks ; rump pale chestnut, edged with grey ; upper tail-coverts and tail brown, with white on the outer tail-feathers as in the male ; median and greater wing-coverts dark brown, edged with whitish ; quills brown—the primaries narrowly tipped and edged paler on the outer webs, and the remaining feathers more broadly edged with pale rufous-brown ; sides of head mixed brown and yellowish white ; chin and throat whitish ; breast and abdomen yellow, with an indistinct brown band across the breast ; under tail-coverts faint yellow. *Immature bird.* Very similar to the female, except that it has no chestnut tinge on the head and rump, and that the whole breast is streaked with brown.

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† The colouration of the tail feathers, here given, is based on adult specimens in my possession.



Iris rich brown. Upper mandible dark brown, lower fleshy horn-colour. Legs pinkish brown. Claws horn-colour.

*Distribution.* Northern, Central and Peninsular Siam. It has not yet been recorded from the other divisions of the country, but almost certainly occurs there in suitable localities, as it has an extensive range in Eastern Asia.

*Habits, &c.* This bird is a winter visitor to Siam, and, in common with other Buntings, is essentially a frequenter of fields, waste lands and grassy plains, as it feeds on grains and seeds of various kinds. In Bangkok it is confined to the open parts of the suburbs, and appears to be rather rare, as I have only come across it twice, in small flocks, in the month of April, *i.e.*, towards the end of its stay in this country. When disturbed in their feeding grounds, the birds immediately fly in a flock to a convenient neighbouring tree or bamboo-clump. Outside Bangkok I have obtained the bird from Klong Rangsit and Samkok, both being places a little north of this City. At Samkok it was common in February in bamboo-clumps near dry rice-fields.

Family *HIRUNDINIDÆ*—*Swallows*.

53 (814.) *Hirundo gutturalis* Scop. *The Eastern Swallow*.

*Hirundo gutturalis*, Ogilvie-Grant, Fasc. Malay. Birds (1905), p. 95.

*Chelidon rustica gutturalis*, Gyldenstolpe 1913, p. 41; id. 1916, p. 83.

*Hirundo rustica gutturalis*, Robinson, Ibis 1915, p. 742.

Siamese, นกขี้เฒ่น (Nok i-en).

*Description.* Length about 165 mm. (6.5 in.). Forehead, chin and throat chestnut; lores black; upper plumage glossy purplish blue; quills and tail black suffused with purplish green, all the tail-feathers, except the middle pair, with a white patch on the inner web; sides of the head and neck and a broad pectoral band black, but the chestnut of the throat encroaches on the pectoral band, and in many specimens nearly severs it down the middle of the breast; lower plumage pale chestnut, becoming darker on the under tail-coverts.\* The outer pair

\* This chestnut suffusion (which I have found in all the birds I have examined) is characteristic of *H. rustica* rather than of *H. gutturalis*, but in point of size, and in the encroachment of the chestnut of the throat on the black pectoral band, the birds found here resemble the latter species. They thus appear to be an intermediate form.

of tail-feathers extend beyond the others about 43 mm. (1.7 in.).\*

Iris dark brown. Bill black. Mouth yellowish. Legs blackish brown, soles paler.

*Distribution.* Recorded from all the divisions of the country, except the Northern and Western ones, but it must occur in them also.

*Habits, &c.* This bird is a seasonal visitor to Bangkok, and occurs in great numbers from August to about the middle of May, but one year I saw two on the 23rd July. It is thus absent from Bangkok for two or three months only. Gyldenstolpe remarks that the bird is "a winter visitor to Siam," but I think there can be no doubt that some, at least, of them remain to breed in this country. In 1916 I found the birds plentiful at Klong Rangsit, a few miles north of Bangkok, on the 29th May, and again observed a fair number on Koh Phai, an island in the inner Gulf of Siam, on 17th July.

The Eastern Swallow is one of our most familiar birds, and may nearly always be looked for either on the wing, hawking for the minute insects on which it feeds, or sitting in long rows on the electric light wires along the road sides. As a rule it flies fairly low, and is often to be seen skimming over the ground only a few feet above the surface. This it usually does over an open field, but I have frequently observed it flying in and out among the traffic, in the busiest thoroughfares of the City. I have only noticed the Swallow on the ground on one occasion, when a flock of them were disporting themselves on the road in front of the Wireless Station, and apparently picking up the grit from the surface.

Family MOTACILLIDÆ—*Wagtails and Pipits.*

54 (827). *Motacilla leucopsis* Gould. *The White-faced Wagtail.*

*Motacilla alba leucopsis*, Gyldenstolpe 1913 p. 41; id. 1916, p. 31.

*Description.* Length 197 mm. (7.75 in.). *Summer plumage.* The whole upper plumage, including the lesser wing-coverts, deep

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\* In one specimen, which I obtained on 9th November 1914, the bifurcation of the tail was about 68 mm. (2.7 in.), and the total length of the bird 210 mm. (8.2 in.)—measurements which approximate to those of *H. rustica*. I presented this bird to one of the Museums in Great Britain in 1915, and have, unfortunately, no note as to whether the black pectoral band was complete or not.



black, except the forehead and anterior portion of the crown, which, together with the sides of the head and neck, cheeks, chin and upper throat, are white; lower throat, fore neck and upper breast black; remainder of lower plumage white; median and greater wing-coverts white, except a small portion of the inner webs; quills black, with the basal portion of the inner webs, and the edges of the outer webs, white; the four middle pairs of tail-feathers black, narrowly margined with white on the outer webs—the remaining feathers being white, with a varying amount of black at the base and on the inner webs. *Winter plumage.* The whole back, rump and upper tail-coverts become grey; the lesser wing-coverts grey mixed with black; the lower throat and fore neck white instead of black, while the black on the upper breast is reduced to a crescentic patch.

Iris brown. Bill black, the base of the lower mandible with a bluish tinge. Legs very dark brown. Claws dark horn-colour.

*Distribution.* Appears to have been recorded only from Northern and Central Siam.

*Habits, &c.* A cold weather visitor to Siam. In Bangkok this species is evidently rare, as I have observed it two or three times only, and have obtained but a single specimen here. This was shot on the tiled roof of the stable in my compound, in January, while the bird was running about, *apparently* picking up insects. Outside Bangkok, I have obtained it at Samkok, 40 miles north, in a dry padi field on the 8th February, and it is of interest to note that this specimen was in full summer plumage. This fact appears to support Gyldenstolpe's remark (*op. cit.* 1913, p. 41) that the bird "seems to retire to its breeding places in Eastern Siberia and China rather early"—that is, as he explains further, by or before the middle of March.

This and the next species are only found in open country, and on the bare banks of rivers, &c.

55 (833). *Motacilla borealis* Sundev. *The Grey-headed Wagtail.*

*Motacilla borealis*, Ogilvie-Grant, Fasc. Malay. Birds (1905), p. 71; Robinson and Kloss, Ibis 1911, p. 73; Gyldenstolpe, Journ. N. H. S. Siam I, p. 171.

*Description.* Length about 178 mm. (7 in.). *Winter plumage.* The forehead, crown, nape and hind neck bluish grey; back and rump

dull olive-green; upper tail-coverts dark brown with olive-green edges; the four middle pairs of tail-feathers black, narrowly edged with pale olivaceous, the two outer pairs white, with a varying amount of dark brown on the inner webs; quills dark brown, margined with pale fulvous or greenish; lores, cheeks and ear-coverts dark slaty black; the whole lower plumage yellow, tinged with ochraceous across the breast, and with the dark bases of the feathers of that part showing through, giving a mottled appearance. *Male in summer plumage.* The forehead, crown, nape and hind neck dark slaty grey; back and rump yellowish green; margins of the wing-feathers pale greenish yellow; whole lower plumage bright yellow, with the dark bases of the feathers on the breast frequently showing through. *Females in summer plumage.* The upper green parts duller than in the winter; the crown and nape browner, with a greenish tinge; lores, cheeks and ear-coverts brown, not black; and a pale fulvous supercilium.

Young birds have the entire upper plumage brownish grey, tinged with bluish on the rump; upper tail coverts dark brown, edged with grey; margins of wing-feathers whitish; a white supercilium; lores and ear-coverts brown; lower plumage white, with a broad brownish gorget across the breast.

Iris dark brown. Bill dark brown, with base of lower mandible yellowish or greenish. Legs and claws dark brown, soles paler.

*Distribution.* Recorded, so far, only from Northern, Central and Peninsular Siam.

*Habits, &c.* This is also a cold weather visitor, but it is much commoner in Bangkok than the last species, and I have obtained specimens from November to May. It is to be found in the fields and market gardens round Bangkok, and appears to be partial to moist spots, or those in the vicinity of water.

56 (839). *Limonidromus indicus* (Gmel.). *The Forest-Wagtail.*

*Limonidromus indicus*, Robinson and Kloss, Ibis 1911, p. 73; Gyldenstolpe 1913, p. 42; id. 1916, p. 32.

*Description.* Length about 165 mm. (6.5 in.). Upper plumage dull olive-green—the upper tail-coverts blackish; a supercilium from the bill to the nape, the cheeks, chin, throat and all the lower plumage



pale yellowish white, with the exception of two black bands across the breast, the upper one entire, the lower one broken in the middle; greater and median wing-coverts black, with pale yellowish white tips, forming two bands across the coverts; quills brown, the second or third to the seventh primaries with a patch of yellowish white on the outer web near the base; all the primaries and secondaries with a margin of yellowish white on a portion of the outer web below the tip; middle pair of tail-feathers the same colour as the back; the next three pairs dark brown, very narrowly tipped with white; the two outer pairs all white, except at the base, where they are brownish.

Iris dark brown. Upper mandible dark brown, lower fleshy white. Legs pinkish flesh. Claws pale horn-colour.

*Distribution.* Up to the present only recorded from Northern, Central and Peninsular Siam, but I shot a specimen on a forest path near Suiracha, South-eastern Siam, in October 1914, and last year my collector obtained one at Lat Bua Khao, in Eastern Siam, in September. The only division of the country from which this bird has not yet been definitely reported is, therefore, the Western one, but it is certain to be found there also.

*Habits, &c.* This is also a winter visitor, and appears to be rather rare everywhere, though widely distributed. In Bangkok I have only obtained two specimens, both of which were shot in fruit gardens—one on the east side and the other on the west side of the river. The latter was on the ground when I first saw it, but on being disturbed it flew on to a low branch of a tree. Its note was rather a weak one of two syllables, *chu-chu*. The five specimens of which I have records were obtained between the middle of September and the middle of April.

57 (845). *Anthus richardi* Vieill. *Richard's Pipit*.

*Anthus richardi striolatus*, Gyldenstolpe 1913, p. 42; id. 1916, p. 32.

*Description.* Length about 190 mm. (7.5 in.). Upper plumage fulvous-brown, the feathers centred with blackish, except on the rump, which is almost uniform; wing-feathers dark brown, margined with fulvous; outermost pair of tail-feathers almost entirely white, the penultimate pair brown, with a long oblique white streak on the inner web near the shaft—the outer web also being frequently white; the

remaining tail-feathers dark brown, with pale margins; supercilium and lower plumage pale fulvous, the sides of the throat and fore neck, and the whole breast, streaked with dark brown; flanks darker fulvous, with a few indistinct darkish streaks.

Iris dark brown. Upper mandible dark brown, lower pale horn-colour, dusky at tip and yellowish horn-colour at base. Mouth and gape yellowish. Legs pale flesh-colour, with pinkish or yellowish tinge, soles paler. Claws horn-colour.

*Distribution.* So far only recorded by Gyldenstolpe from Northern Siam, and by myself from the neighbourhood of Bangkok, in the Central division of the country.

*Habits, &c.* A winter visitor to Siam from Central and Northern Asia. I have obtained it in Bangkok from November to May, when it is common in the open fields round the City. I believe this Pipit is entirely a ground bird, where it feeds on insects by making rapid runs at them.

58 (847). *Anthus rufulus* Vieill. *The Indian Pipit.*

*Anthus rufulus*, Ogilvie-Grant, Fasc. Malay. Birds (1905), p. 71;

Gyldenstolpe, Journ. N. H. S. Siam I, p. 171.

*Anthus malayensis*, Robinson and Kloss, Ibis 1911, p. 74.

*Anthus richardi malayensis*, Gyldenstolpe 1916, p. 32.

Siamese, นก กระต๊อด (Nok-kra-tid.)

*Description.* Length about 165 mm. (6.5 in.). In colouration this bird exactly resembles the last species (*A. richardi*), of which it is a miniature, except that the bill is proportionately larger.

Iris dark brown. Upper mandible and tip of lower dark brown, remainder of lower mandible yellowish or pinkish flesh-colour. Legs pale yellowish flesh-colour. Claws horn-colour.

*Distribution.* Recorded, up to the present, only from Northern, Central and Peninsular Siam.

*Habits, &c.* A resident species, with habits precisely similar to those of *A. richardi*, just described, in whose company the bird is frequently found. This is not meant to imply that Pipits are in the least gregarious—I should rather describe them as solitary—but both these species occur in the same fields, feeding near each other. This Pipit is a regular frequenter of our lawns, except during the breeding season (March to July or August), when it keeps to the fields.



\*59 (849). *Anthus cervinus* (Pall.). *The Red-throated Pipit.*

*Anthus cervinus*, Williamson, Journ. N. H. S. Siam I, p. 198.

*Description.* Length about 159 mm. (6.25 in.). The whole upper plumage blackish brown, with fulvous or pale rufous margins to the feathers; wings and tail dark brown, edged with pale fulvous, the outermost pair of tail-feathers with a long diagonal streak on the terminal two-thirds of their length, the penultimate pair with a small white tip; supercilium, cheeks, chin, throat and breast vinous or cinnamon-red, the breast with a few black streaks; sides of the breast more thickly streaked; remainder of lower plumage fulvous, suffused with pink, the sides of the body heavily streaked with black; lores and ear-coverts vinous-brown.

Immature birds have the whole lower plumage fulvous, and the whole breast and the sides of the body with very broad black streaks. According to Oates (*Faun. Brit. Ind.*, Birds II, p. 310), "at each successive spring moult the young bird acquires more and more vinous on the head and breast, and probably becomes fully adult in three years."

Iris dark brown. Upper mandible and tip of lower dark brown, remainder of lower mandible yellowish horn-colour. Legs dusky flesh-colour (yellowish flesh-colour—Oates). Claws horn-colour.

*Distribution.* So far apparently recorded only from Bangkok, Central Siam.

*Habits, &c.* Similar to those of the last two species described, and found in the same localities, viz., the open fields round the City. This is a cold weather visitor. The first specimen obtained here was shot by Mr. E. G. Herbert in March 1914, and I have since obtained it regularly in February and March, when it is fairly common. It must, however, also be found in the earlier months of the cold season.

Family ALAUDIDÆ—Larks.

\*60. *Alauda gulgula sala* Swinh. *The Formosan Sky-Lark.*

*Alauda gulgula* (part.). Oates, Fauna Brit. Ind., Birds II, p. 326.

*Alauda gulgula sala*, Williamson, Journ. N. H. S. Siam II p. 60.

Siamese, นกกระจ่าง (Nok kra-chab fon).

*Description.* Length up to 165 mm. (6.5 in.). Upper plumage dark brown, the feathers broadly edged with fulvous; quills brown, narrowly tipped whitish—the first two or three primaries being edged with pale fulvous, while the edges of the remaining wing-feathers are more or less rufous; tail brown, edged with fulvous, except the outermost pair of tail-feathers which are white (barring the base of the inner web), and the penultimate pair, which have the outer web white; a pale supercilium from the nostrils to the ear-coverts; lower plumage pale fulvous, except the breast and flanks, which are darker, the cheeks being slightly, and the breast boldly, streaked with brown and black, respectively.

Iris brown. Upper mandible dark horn-colour, lower dull whitish, dusky at tip. Legs pinkish to brownish flesh. Claws pale horn-colour.

*Distribution.* So far only recorded, by myself, from the neighbourhood of Bangkok, Central Siam.

I have elsewhere (*antea*, p. 60) dealt fully with the occurrence of this bird in Siam—a fact which is of some interest, as it has only been procured, hitherto, in Formosa and South Hainan. There is no record of its occurrence in Indo-China, which would be expected, while it is represented in South China by another race, *A. g. caelivox*.

*Habits, etc.* A resident here, and to be found in the open fields round Bangkok. I have not taken its eggs, but young birds procured in April and May appear to be referable to this species. If so, its time of nesting is probably much the same as that of its congener, *A. g. gulgula*, which is said by Oates to breed in Burma from December to April.

This bird is a true Sky-Lark, and sings while soaring on the wing in exactly the same manner as its European congener, from which it differs mainly in its smaller size. Any one walking across the fields round Bangkok, especially during the months when it is breeding, cannot fail, if he has an attentive ear, to note the continuous outpouring of the song of this bird, and a search sky-wards will soon reveal one or more of them, on fluttering wings.

The Siamese appear to have the same name for this bird as for the following species, to which it certainly bears a very close general resemblance. It differs from *Mirafra cantillans williamsoni* by its



longer and more slender bill, its larger size (wing up to 90 mm. against a maximum of 76 mm.), and its much longer and straighter hind claw. In *A. g. sala* this is as much as 25 mm. in length, while in *M. c. williamsoni* the hind claw does not exceed 9 mm. and is more curved.

\*61. *Mirafra cantillans williamsoni* Stuart Baker. *The Bangkok White-tailed Bush-Lark.*

*Mirafra cantillans* (part.), Oates, Faun. Brit. India, Birds II, p. 333.

*Mirafra cantillans williamsoni*, Stuart Baker, Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, No. CCX (1915), p. 9.

Siamese, นกกระจ่าง (Nok kra-chab fon).

*Description.* Length about 142 mm. (5.6 in.). Upper plumage dark brown, with narrow grey-brown margins to the feathers; wing-coverts brown, with pale rufous margins; primaries and secondaries with rufous edges to the outer webs; outer pair of tail-feathers white, except for a brown diagonal band at the base of the inner web, the penultimate pair white on the outer web only, and the remaining feathers dark brown with pale edges; lores and supercilium fulvous to pale rufous; sides of the head mottled with brown and pale rufous; chin and throat whitish; remainder of lower plumage fulvous, darker on the thighs and under tail-coverts, and with the breast washed with rufous and streaked with brown.

Iris brown. Upper mandible dark horn-colour, lower pale horny. Legs pale flesh-colour. Claws pale horn-colour.

Stuart Baker, by whom this bird was named, has made the following observations regarding its differences from its two nearest allies:—

"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

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\* I have a specimen with a wing of 76 mm.

aspect of the back is dark brown, the edges of 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 markings on the breast and lower throat than there are in that bird."

*Distribution.* So far only recorded from the vicinity of Bangkok, Central Siam.

*Habits, &c.* This a common resident bird, occurring in the fields outside Bangkok.

#### Family NECTARINIDÆ—Sunbirds.

62 (898). *Arachnechthra flammaxillaris* (Blyth). *The Burmese Yellow-breasted Sunbird.*

*Cyrtostomus flammaxillaris*, Robinson and Kloss, Ibis 1911, p. 77; Robinson, Journ. F. M. S. Mus. V (1915) p. 152; Gyldenstolpe 1916, p. 33.

*Arachnechthra flammaxillaris*, Gyldenstolpe 1913, p. 44.

Siamese, นกกินปลี (Nok kin-pli).

*Description.* Length about 110 mm. (4.3 in.). *Male.* Upper plumage olive-brown, greenish on the rump and upper tail-coverts; the two middle pairs of tail-feathers entirely black, the others with white tips becoming progressively larger until, on the outermost pair, nearly one-third of the terminal portion is white; chin, throat and breast rich metallic purple, bordered by rich steel-blue; below the breast a band of dull rusty red, passing into dull black; axillaries orange-red; abdomen, vent and under tail-coverts yellow; sides of body dusky yellow; wings brown, edged with greenish brown; under wing-coverts yellowish white; edge of the wing yellow. *Female.* Differs from the male in having the entire lower plumage yellow, and in the absence of the orange-red axillaries.

Iris brown (light brown—Oates). Bill, legs and claws blackish.

*Distribution.* Recorded, so far, from all the divisions of the country except the Eastern and Western. It must, however, be found in them also, as it has been reported by Oustalet from French Indo-China, and occurs in Tenasserim.



*Habits, &c.* This bird is a resident species, and is a frequent visitor to our gardens, where it must attract attention owing to its general resemblance to a Humming-bird. The male, whose metallic purplish blue throat and breast are very noticeable, has quite a pretty little song in the breeding season. The birds are generally to be seen in pairs, and they are very partial to the large, brightly coloured flowers of the Hibiscus, into which, while clinging to a convenient stalk, they insert their heads and long curved bills for the nectar and minute insects on which they feed. They are unable to poise themselves in the air above a flower, as Humming-birds do, except for very brief intervals, and then only as a preliminary to settling on a stem. Their ordinary note is a double one, *tweet-tweet*.

63 (903). *Anthothreptes malaccensis* (Scop.). *The Brown-throated Sun-bird*.

*Anthothreptes malaccensis*, Ogilvie-Grant, Fasc. Malay. Birds (1905), p. 73; Robinson, Journ. F. M. S. Mus. V (1915), p. 152; id. Ibis 1915, p. 757.

*Anthreptes malaccensis*, Gyldenstolpe 1916, p. 34.

Siamese, นก กิน ปลี (Nok kin-pi).

*Description.* Length about 127 mm. (5 in.). *Male.* Forehead, crown, nape and sides of the neck metallic green or lilac, according to the angle from which viewed; rump and upper tail-coverts metallic-violet purple; lores and sides of the head dull brownish green; a stripe from the gape down the lower side of the throat, metallic purple; chin and throat cinnamon-brown; lower plumage yellow, tinged with green on the flanks and vent; under wing-coverts and axillaries yellowish white; outermost pair of tail-feathers brown, the others becoming successively darker (until those in the middle of the tail are dark bluish brown), and with a gradually increasing amount of metallic purple or green on the outer webs; lesser wing-coverts metallic purple; median and greater wing-coverts olive-brown, tipped with cinnamon; quills brown, edged with olive-green. *Female.* Upper plumage dull yellowish green; sides of head greenish yellow, the ear-coverts dark; lower plumage yellow, greenish on flanks; tail brown, very narrowly tipped paler, and with all the feathers, except the outermost pair, edged with yellowish green on the outer webs; wings and

wing-coverts dark brown, edged with yellowish green.

Iris reddish brown. Upper mandible and anterior half of lower, horny brown, remainder pale orange-horny. Legs yellowish green, soles yellow to orange-yellow. Claws greenish horn-colour.

*Distribution.* Recorded from Central, South-eastern and Peninsular Siam.

*Habits, &c.* Very similar to the last species and, I think, just as common in Bangkok. The male is one of our most lovely birds, with its beautiful metallic upper plumage, one of the peculiarities of which is that it varies from dark green to lilac according to the manner in which the light falls. It is a larger bird than the one last described, and has a loud and rather insistent note of three syllables, *chu-chu-chu*, repeated many times, but I have not observed the male to have any song, as in that of *Arachnechthra flammarillaris*.

64 (911). *Chalcoparia phœnicotis* (Temm.). *The Ruby-cheek.*

*Chalcoparia phœnicotis*. Gyldenstolpe 1913, p. 45; id. 1916, p. 34.

*Description.* Length about 112 mm. (4.4 in.). *Male.* The whole upper plumage and lesser wing-coverts brilliant metallic emerald-green; lores blackish; cheeks and ear-coverts rich copper-colour, bordered below by a line of rich metallic lilac; chin, throat and breast ferruginous buff; abdomen, sides of body, vent and under tail-coverts yellow; under wing-coverts white to very pale yellow; greater wing-coverts black, edged with metallic green; wings dark brown, sometimes narrowly edged with whitish; outer tail-feathers brown, the others dark bluish brown, more or less edged with metallic green. *Female.* The lower plumage like that of the male; upper plumage and lesser wing-coverts olive-green; greater wing-coverts and wings brown, edged with yellowish green; tail brown (middle feathers darker) edged with yellowish green.

Iris lake-red. Bill black. Mouth yellow (Oates). Legs yellowish green. Claws yellowish horny.

*Distribution.* Recorded by Gyldenstolpe from Northern, Central and Eastern Siam, while I have obtained it from Bangnara in the Peninsular division of the country, and from Hup-bon, in South-eastern Siam. The only part from which it has not yet been reported



is, therefore, the Western division, but it must occur there, as it is found in Tenasserim.

*Habits, &c.* The only Bangkok specimens in my possession are a pair (♂ and ♀) obtained by Mr. E. G. Herbert on the west side of the river, where there are extensive tracts of fruit-gardens interspersed with large trees, and that gentleman informed me that he had seen the bird on other occasions. I do not think it is found in the more open districts of the east side of the river. Gyldenstolpe reports this species as "rather common" in Eastern, Central and Northern Siam, but that is not my experience in the parts I have visited. I should rather be inclined to say that, while widely distributed, it is nowhere abundant.

The male of this bird vies with that of the last species in the beauty of its colouring, and the glossy metallic green of its upper plumage is most attractive.

#### Family *DICÆIDÆ*—Flower-peckers.

##### 65 (912). *Dicæum cruentatum* (Linn.). *The Scarlet-backed Flower-pecker.*

*Dicæum cruentatum*, Ogilvie-Grant, Fasc. Malay. Birds (1905), p. 74; Robinson and Kloss, Ibis 1911, p. 78; Gyldenstolpe 1913, p. 46; Robinson, Journ. F.M.S. Mus. V (1915), p. 152; Gairdner, Journ. N. H. S. Siam I. (1915), p. 149; Gyldenstolpe, ibid, p. 171; Robinson, Ibis 1915, p. 755.

*Dicæum cruentatum coccinea*, Gyldenstolpe 1916, p. 35.

Siamese, นกสีชมพูสวน (Nok si-chomp'hu suan).

*Description.* Length about 89 mm. (3.5 in.). *Male.* Forehead, crown, nape, back, rump and upper tail-coverts crimson; lores, sides of the head and neck, wings and tail black; upper wing-coverts black with a bluish gloss; lower plumage pale buff, the sides of the breast black, and the sides of the body ashy brown; under wing-coverts and axillaries white. *Female.* Head, nape and back olive-green, the centres of the feathers of the crown darker; rump and upper tail-coverts red; tail black; the whole lower plumage ashy buff, darker on the sides of the neck and body; wing-feathers dark brown, edged on the outer webs with olive-green.

Iris dark brown. Bill black (fully adult male); upper mandible dark horny, lower mandible pale slate—tip dusky (female, and younger

male). Mouth black (male), flesh-colour to orange (female). Legs dark brown to blackish. Claws dark horny.

Referring to Gyldenstolpe's remarks (*op.* 1916, p. 35) as to the wing-measurements of the Siamese bird, it may be of interest to record that three adult males in my collection from Sriracha (S. E. Siam), Bangkok (C. Siam) and Bangnara (Pen. Siam), respectively, all have the wing measuring 48 mm.

*Distribution.* Recorded from all the divisions of the country, except the Eastern, where, however, I have observed it at Muak-lek, in the Dong Rek hills. It is, thus, to be found all over Siam, and in many places is one of the common species.

*Habits, &c.* This very small resident bird is abundant here, but possibly often escapes observation, despite the scarlet upper plumage of the males, by its habit of keeping mostly to the topmost twigs of trees. It is, moreover, of restless disposition, and seldom remains long in one place, but it betrays its presence by its rather staccato little note of *chi-chi-chi-chi*, rapidly repeated many times. Judging by captive specimens I have had, it appears to live chiefly on fruit, but it also doubtless takes small insects, and it makes a bright and pretty little cage-bird.

66. (914). *Dicaeum chrysorrhæum* Temm. *The Yellow-vented Flower-pecker.*

*Dicaeum chrysorrhæum*, Robinson and Kloss, *Ibis* 1911, p. 78.

*Dicaeum chrysorrhæum*, Gyldenstolpe, *Journ. N. H. S. Siam* I. (1915), p. 171; Robinson, *Ibis* 1915, p. 756.

*Dicaeum chrysorrhæum*, Gyldenstolpe 1916, p. 36

*Description.* Length about 102 mm. (4 in.). Upper plumage and lesser wing-coverts yellowish green, brighter on the rump and upper tail-coverts; tail blackish; greater wing-coverts dark brown on the inner webs and yellowish green on the outer; wings blackish brown, the primaries and secondaries narrowly, and the tertiaries broadly, edged with yellowish green; sides of the head and neck yellowish green; lores, cheeks, chin and throat white, with a greenish brown mandibular streak below the cheeks; lower plumage whitish, boldly streaked with greenish brown; under tail-coverts orange-yellow to pale orange; under wing-coverts and axillaries white.

Iris orange-red to bright brick-red. Upper mandible and tip of



lower blackish, remainder bluish slate. Mouth black\* (flesh-colour—Oates). Legs dark plumbeous. Claws dark horn-colour.

*Distribution.* So far recorded only from Northern, Southern and Peninsular Siam, but I have also obtained it in Bangkok, Central Siam, and at Muak-lek, in the Eastern division of the country.

*Habits, &c.* My only Bangkok specimen was purchased from a bird-catcher here, who informed me positively that he had trapped it in this place, and that he got single birds now and then. I see no reason to doubt this statement, though neither I nor my collectors have come across the bird in Bangkok. The fact is, it is rather rare everywhere, and only single specimens are usually obtained. I have personally met with the bird twice only—once at Sriracha, S. E. Siam, and the second time at Muak-lek, in the Eastern division of the Kingdom. It is easily distinguished from the other Flower-peckers by its streaked lower parts and its yellow under tail-coverts.

\* 67 (922). *Piprisoma modestum* (Hume). *Hume's Flower-pecker.*

*Piprisoma modestum*, Robinson, and Kloss, Ibis 1911, p. 79; Gyldenstolpe 1916, p. 37.

*Piprisoma modestum modestum*, Robinson, Ibis 1915, p. 756.

Siamese, นกตีพาย (Nok si-p'hlai).

*Description.* Length about 102 mm. (4 in.). Upper plumage dusky olive-green, lighter on the rump and upper tail-coverts; wings and tail dark brown, edged with olive-green, and the tail feathers tipped white—very narrowly in the centre, and increasingly so on the outer feathers; lores whitish; chin and centre of throat white; sides of the head and neck ashy brown, in some specimens with a faint green tinge; lower plumage whitish to sullied yellowish white, streaked with greenish brown.

Iris pale brick-red. Upper mandible and tip of lower dark horn-colour, remainder of bill plumbeous. Mouth orange. Legs dark slate-colour. Claws horn-colour.

*Distribution.* In the papers quoted above, this bird is recorded from Northern, South-eastern and Peninsular Siam, but I have also obtained it in Bangkok and at Muak-lek, in the Central and

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\* Adult female, 28th December, Sriracha, S. E. Siam.

Eastern divisions, respectively. It thus remains to be reported only from Western Siam, where it is almost certain to be found, as it is recorded from the Malay Peninsula and also from Pegu in lower Burma.

*Habits, &c.* I have, on one or two occasions, purchased specimens of this Flower-pecker, in Bangkok, from the bird-catcher referred to in connection with the last species, and he informed me he had caught them here. As the man lives in Bangkok, and traps most of his birds on the trees round about his house, I think his statement may be accepted. I have not met with this species at large locally, but as it is very small, and of dingy colouration, it is likely to escape observation. In some places it appears to be fairly common. Robinson (*Ibis* 1915, p. 756) records four specimens as having been obtained by Mr. C. Boden Kloss at Ok Yam, in South-eastern Siam, while I saw several (of which one was shot and preserved) at Muak-lek in the Eastern division of the country.

(*To be continued.*)