

Closer to *A.s.similis* in size but paler and less heavily streaked on the breast.

Type: ♂ Aingdo, Yamethin district, Central Burma, 15th November 1938, collected by H. C. Smith, Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1948.80.2754. Wing 89, bill 19, tail 72, hind claw 10, tarsus 26 mm.

Range: Hills and foothills in the Yamethin, Meiktila, Myingyan, Pakokku and Mandalay districts of Central Burma.

Specimens examined: 8 ♂, 3 ♀ and 7 unsexed adults of which one with a wing of 84 mm. has been presumed a female in compiling the table of measurements: 2 juveniles (August and September): compared with a large series of *A.s.jerdoni*.

A Note on Some Generic Names in the Timaliinae

by MR. H. G. DEIGNAN

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Authors who treat as congeneric the 17 to 19 species of Timaliinae formerly distributed under the generic names of *Trichastoma* Blyth, 1842, *Malacocincla* Blyth, 1845, *Illadopsis* Heine, 1860, *Nannothera* Sundevall, 1872, *Erythrocichla* Sharpe, 1883, *Anuropsis* Sharpe, 1883, *Aethostoma* Sharpe, 1902, and *Elocincla* Riley, 1939, should note that the oldest available name is *Trichastoma* Blyth, 1842 (genotype: *Tr. rostratum* Blyth), which, under current interpretations of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature, is *not* preoccupied by *Trichostoma* Pictet, 1834, Trichoptera.

Blyth's spelling was emendated by Strickland in 1849 to *Trichostoma*, and in this form the name was generally adopted by subsequent writers, until, in 1902, Sharpe gave the new name *Aethostoma*, on grounds of homonymy. This Sharpean name should, however, be considered a replacement only of Strickland's unwarranted emendation.

I wish also to point out that, when *Turdinus* is combined with *Napothera*, and *Siva* with *Minla*, the latter name in each pair is the correct one to use.

Notes on African Larks—Part IV

by MR. C. M. N. WHITE

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The genus Certhilauda

In the present notes I have taken as the basis for discussion the conception of *Certhilauda* adopted by Mienertzhagen (P.Z.S. 1951). This treatment of *Certhilauda* was not very happy, partly because he omitted to study *Miraфра* and partly because he allowed bill form to influence too greatly the criteria for the genus. In fact as I have pointed out elsewhere the distinction between *Certhilauda* and *Miraфра* is an arbitrary one; bill form is an unsafe generic character alone since this is probably the most plastic organ of a bird's structure. I believe that *Certhilauda* as proposed by Meinertzhagen in 1951 is a composite group which needs rearrangement. The species included by him were:

(i) *Chersophilus duponti* (Vieillot). My knowledge of this North African lark is limited to the museum but it does not seem closely allied to *Certhilauda*. Its white outer tail feather and reduced first primary are unlike the true *Certhilauda* species and in general it suggests to me possible origin from *Miraфра*, such as *M.africana*. It is preferable to keep it as a monotypic genus until more is known of its affinities.



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