

These can only be referable to *Nummulina*. Soldani's sketches, *g*, *h*, indicating the natural size, are as large as our outlines; and his other figures show some of the characters of *Nummulina exponens*.

96. *Soldania nitida*, D'Orb. Pl. XII. fig. 134.

Soldani, Testac. vol. i. pt. 2. p. 151, pl. 135. fig. *I*. D'Orb. *op. cit.* p. 281. no. 3.

"*Hab.* Fossil at Coroncina." (Fossil at Clusenti, *Soldani*.)

If D'Orbigny found the exact counterpart of this, it was curious; and if he did not, why he should have chosen a drawing of a quite indeterminable fragment as the foundation of a species, we cannot tell. Soldani explicitly states that the figure does but represent a section:—"Alterum [*I*] est *Hammonia*, sive potius *Nautilus dimidiatus*." It may possibly be a fragment of a *Planorbulina*; beyond this we can offer no suggestion.

[To be continued.]

XIX.—On the *Alauda bimaculata* of *Ménétriés*. By R. B. SHARPE, F.L.S. &c., Librarian to the Zoological Society of London.

THROUGH the kindness of Canon Tristram and other friends, I have had a large series of Calandra Larks submitted to me lately, with a view to identify the species which belong to the European fauna. Hitherto only one species has been admitted as European, viz. the ordinary Calandra Lark, *Melanocorypha calandra* (L.); but Dr. Tristram, writing in 'The Ibis' for 1868 (p. 208), remarks, in the course of his essay on the Ornithology of Palestine:—

"Before concluding these notes on the Passerine birds of Palestine, I must state that, on going through my collection recently, in company with the editor of this Journal, we were satisfied that the Calandra Lark of Mount Hermon and Lebanon must be distinguished from the common Calandra of the plains and of Southern Europe. It is smaller and more slender, with a very decided rufous tint on the whole of its plumage; but especially the outer rectrices are without any white, while in the true *M. calandra* (L.) the outer tail-feathers are wholly white. But before describing the species as new, I am anxious to have an opportunity of examining Persian and Affghan specimens."

I am indebted to the reverend gentleman for the loan of the specimens on which the above remarks were founded, and I

am at once enabled to distinguish them specifically from the ordinary Calandra. Dr. Tristram has selected two of the characters by which they may be separated; but there is yet a third, of equal importance, which he has apparently overlooked; and that consists in the entire absence of white spots along the tips of the lesser quills, which is so very evident a character in true *M. calandra*. On comparing the Palestine specimens with an example of *M. alboterminata* in my collection from Abyssinia, I find that they agree precisely as regards the characters of the wings and tail: the bill is a little stouter in the latter bird; but this is, as every one knows, a very variable characteristic in larks of the genus *Melanocorypha*. A further examination of *Melanocorypha bimaculata* of Ménétriés has induced me to believe that this, too, is not distinct from *M. torquata* of Cashmere and the North-west Provinces of India, while I am unable to separate either of these species from *M. alboterminata*; so that it will be seen that I incline to the belief that there is one species of Calandra Lark found ranging from Abyssinia to North-western India, replacing the true Calandra in these countries, and overlapping the range of the latter in Palestine and South-eastern Russia. Mr. Blyth, it is true, has written to 'The Ibis' (1867, p. 46) protesting against his *M. torquata* being united to *M. bimaculata* of Ménétriés, which latter, he says, "can be only doubtfully separated from *Calandrella brachydactyla* (L.)." But, in reply to this, it may be mentioned that Ménétriés, in his original description, gives his *A. bimaculata* as being of the size of a Calandra, which can hardly be said to be the case with the Short-toed Lark. Lastly, it may be observed that the *M. rufescens* of Pastor Brehm, which has been regarded as a synonym of *M. alboterminata*, is doubtless rightly thus identified; and this name was probably founded on a rufous-coloured specimen, for Canon Tristram's examples are more rufous than any I have seen. Whether this coloration is due to the season of the year, or whether it is acquired from the nature of the ground they frequent, I cannot at present determine, the latter, I suspect, being the reason. According to my views, therefore, the synonymy of the species will stand thus:—

Melanocorypha bimaculata.

Alauda bimaculata, Ménétriés, Cat. Rais. p. 37 (1832).

Melanocorypha calandra, Rüpp. Syst. Uebers. p. 78 (1845, nec Linn.).

— *torquata*, Blyth, J. A. S. B. xvi. p. 476 (1847).

— *alboterminata*, Cab. Mus. Hein. Th. i. p. 124 (1850).

— *rufescens*, Brehm, Naumannia, 1856, p. 376.

M. similis M. calandræ, sed paullo minor, et remigibus minoribus

haud albo terminatis, et rectricibus exterioribus brunneis pogonio externo isabellino marginato, haud albis, distinguenda.

Hab. North-east Africa (*Brehm, Heuglin*), Palestine (*Tristram*), Caucasus (*Ménétriés*), ?Persia (*Defilippi*), Turkestan (*Dode*), Cashmere (*Jerdon*), North-west India (*Blyth, Hume*).

XX.—On a new Species of Plesiosaurus from the Portland Limestone*. By HARRY G. SEELEY, F.G.S., St. John's College, Cambridge.

WHEN the Index to the Reptilian Remains from the Secondary strata preserved in the Woodwardian Museum was written, an examination of many examples of Plesiosauria had shown that, with perfect specimens, good characters were available by which the overgrown genus *Plesiosaurus* might be separated into natural genera. Hence, when recording the few remains from the Portland Oolite (p. 91), finding the characters of *Pliosaurus* blended to some extent with those of *Plesiosaurus*, I did not feel it easy to volunteer an opinion on generic affinities.

Since then, Prof. Owen's memoir in the Palæontographical Society's volume (1869) on *Pliosaurus portlandicus* has been published; and in the absence of associated vertebræ showing the distinctive Pliosaurian characters of the neural arch and centrum, I cannot but feel less confidence than Prof. Owen expresses in regarding the paddle there figured as the type of the Pliosaurian hind limb. In some large-headed Plesiosaurs, such as *Plesiosaurus macrocephalus* (Owen), the tibia and fibula, and ulna and radius, become shorter than in small-headed species; and although the tarsus in Prof. Owen's fossil is very similar to that of Pliosaurus from the Kimmeridge Clay, the femur is more like *Plesiosaurus*; and it is not impossible that the Portland specimen may typify a new genus. All the limb-bones from the Portland Limestone, so far as known to me, are pliosauroid, while all the vertebræ are plesiosauroid.

Therefore with some interest we received from an indefatigable correspondent, Mr. W. R. Brodie, some vertebræ which demonstrate, as conclusively as vertebræ can, the existence in the Portland Limestone of a new species of *Plesiosaurus*. They were found by Mr. Brodie at the Winspit

* Communicated by the author, having been read before the Cambridge Philosophical Society, May 30, 1870.



Sharpe, Richard Bowdler. 1871. "XIX.—On the *Alauda bimaculata* of Ménériés." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 8, 179–181. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222937108696461>.

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