

Genus **CERTHILAUDA**, *Swains.*

GEN. CHAR. *Bill* moderate, slender, curved. *Nostrils* roundish. *Wings* with first quill extremely short or nearly spurious; second very long; third, fourth, and fifth nearly equal and the longest. *Tail* rather short, even. *Feet* moderate; nail of the hind toe short and straight.

BIFASCIATED LARK.

Certhilauda bifasciata.

Alauda bifasciata, *Licht*

L'Alouette bifasciée.

IN the third part of his 'Manuel,' M. Temminck describes this rare species of Lark as an occasional visitant to the eastern and southern parts of Europe, it having been killed both in Sicily and Provence. It would appear to be very common on the banks of the Nile, from whence we have received specimens, and it is also plentiful in Abyssinia. It differs much in its structure from the members of the genus *Alauda*, and if we mistake not, will rank with the bird characterized by Mr. Swainson under the name of *Certhilauda*, and as such we have figured it. Taking the common Sky Lark of our island as the type of the genus *Alauda*, this will be found to exhibit many points of difference, particularly in the elongated and curved form of the bill, and in the comparative shortness of the toes and nails; and although we have not been made acquainted with its habits and manners, we feel confident that they differ considerably from those of the *Alauda arvensis* and its immediate congeners, and that Mr. Swainson's views in separating it into a distinct genus will be fully substantiated.

Of its food and nidification nothing is known.

The sexes are alike in plumage and may be thus described:

The whole of the head, back of the neck, scapularies, and upper tail-coverts pale greyish brown; wing-coverts dark brown, margined with pale brown; base and tips of the secondaries white, forming a double band across the centre of the wing, the intermediate space dark brown, with pale brown edges; primaries dark brown; tail-feathers dark brown, with the exterior web of the outer feather on each side, and the extreme edge of the next, white; all the remainder edged with pale brown; stripe before and behind the eye and one from the angle of the mouth dark brown; throat, sides of the face, under part of the wings, and all the under surface dull white; the lower part of the throat and the breast ornamented with numerous oblong spots of dark brown; bill and feet yellowish.

We have figured an adult male of the natural size.