

Genus *ALAUDA*, *Linn.*

GEN. CHAR. *Bili* subconic, short, the mandibles of equal length, the upper one slightly convex. *Nostrils* basal, lateral, oval, partly concealed by small reflected feathers. *Feet*, three toes before, and one behind; the anterior ones entirely divided; the claw of the hind one long and nearly straight. *Wings*, the first quill very short, or wanting, the third the longest; tertials in most instances shorter than the quills. Coronal feathers generally produced, and capable of being erected.

BLACK AND WHITE LARK.

*Alauda Tartarica*, *Pall.*

L'Alouette Nègre.

THE *Alauda Tartarica* is a native of the high northern regions of the old continent, where it enjoys a most extensive habitat, being dispersed, as we have every reason to believe, over the whole of Siberia, Northern Russia, Lapland, &c., and from whence it performs periodical migrations into more temperate climes. It spreads in autumn, says M. Temminck, over the provinces of European Russia, where it dwells in small companies; hence it is necessary to include it in the fauna of Europe. Like *Plectrophanes nivalis* and *Lapponica* it is subject to very considerable and contrasted changes in the colouring of its plumage at opposite seasons: during the rigorous months of winter its clothing is remarkably thick and warm; the feathers, which are then elongated, are encircled with a band of light tawny grey, and falling closely over each other, conceal the black colouring of the base of each feather. On the approach of summer a decomposition takes place in the lighter portions of the feathers, which gradually break off, and leave the bird in the height of summer of a jet black, which style of dress continues until the autumn, when a moult takes place, and the bird again assumes its usual winter clothing. The lower figure in our Plate represents the bird in the winter dress, while the upper illustrates the nearly completed plumage of summer, when, as will be readily perceived, many of the feathers possess the remains of the winter plumage.

The *Alauda Tartarica* is a bird of great rarity in the collections of Europe; and independent of our own specimen, which we received from Paris, we know of no other example in England.

The only difference in the outward appearance of the sexes consists in the hues of the female being somewhat less deep, and in her being rather smaller in size than her mate.

We cannot examine this and the following species, *Alauda Calandra*, without being fully impressed with the propriety of separating them into a new genus, distinct from *Alauda*, which genus is typically represented by *A. arvensis*; but having already figured one species which according to our ideas would range in this division under the name of *Alauda brachydactyla*, we have considered it best, in these instances also, to retain the old generic title *Alauda*.

After what has been said above we conceive any further description of the plumage will be unnecessary: the beak is yellowish buff at the base and black at the tip; the feet and legs are black.

The figures are of the natural size.