

Milligan received his type,\* the ground is very rufous, and so red and friable that Mr. Rogers has seen a cloud of it above the river when he was fifty miles away from it. As the colour of the ground is so is the colour of the *Mirafra*. Accordingly a knowledge of the large areas of varying soils and the *Mirafra* associating upon them should, in my opinion, give us a complete and proper list of this genus, with all but the type ranking sub-specifically.

The light-coloured specimens, which I shall refer to as *M. horsfieldi pallidus*, are from Roebuck Bay Plains, N.-W. Australia. Six are males, two females; collected between 25th and 30th October, 1902. Soft parts.—Bill—upper mandible deep brown, lower pale yellowish, the tip being as upper mandible; legs and feet pale brown; irides brown.

[This is another case which the committee appointed at the last annual meeting of the Union to inquire into the vernacular naming of our birds, and the necessity of a revision of our tentative Check-List, should investigate. "As the ground is so is the colour of the *Mirafra*," says Mr. Hall; also that "certain desert birds distinctly guard themselves in the matter of colouration by agreement with their surroundings." Without for one moment throwing doubt on Mr. Hall's right to class the bird he describes as a new sub-species—it would be presumptuous on my part to do so—may one not ask whether in a case where colouration depends upon environment, and where also this abnormal colouration is largely (not altogether) relied upon as a basis for a new type, the matter should remain in abeyance until further evidence be available? An instance cited by Mr. A. W. Milligan in the present issue of *The Emu* (*re Drymaëdus brunncopygius*), wherein he admits that he "cannot detect any differences between Eastern and Western forms," confirms one in his doubt whether ornithologists have not been running to extremes in giving new names to sub-species of birds. In America they have been abolishing many sub-species which on further inquiry would not justify their existence. We should do so here.—H.K.]

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LITTLE PENGUINS.—It might interest you to know that a pair of Penguins nested this spring on the shore in front of my house. The main coast road at this point runs within a few feet of the beach, and the nest was in the embankment of the road. The birds were there for upwards of two months, in spite of the fact that the average traffic on the road amounts to at least 40 vehicles per day, practically passing over their heads; besides which on more than one occasion they were pulled out of their hole to be exhibited for the curiosity of visitors.—C. ROSS MACKENZIE. Somerset (Tas.), 10/1/04.

\* *M. woodwardi* (Rufous Bush-Lark), *Vict. Nat.*, vol. xviii., No. 2, p. 25.