



<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>

Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.

London :The Club,1893-

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/bibliography/46639>

v.74 (1954): <http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/125678>

Page(s): Page 86

Contributed by: Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by: Natural History Museum Library, London

Generated 17 April 2015 4:27 AM

<http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/pdf4/038545900125678>

This page intentionally left blank.

On the Correct Scientific Name of the Damaraland Race of the Rufous-naped Lark

By CAPTAIN C. H. B. GRANT and MR. C. W. MACKWORTH-PRAED

Received 16th June, 1954

Roberts, in Ann. Trans. Mus. 16, p. 119, 1935, states in a footnote that *Mirafra pallida* is preoccupied by "*Mirafra pallida*" Gray, 1870. Reference to Gray's Handlist Birds, 2, pp. 121 and 122, 1870, shows that this author placed this name under *Ammomanes* i.e., No. 7807, as *Ammomanes pallida* Ehr. and under No. 7812 *Ammomanes pallida* Heugl. Arabia. The earliest reference to this name is *Ammomanes pallida* Cabanis, Mus. Hein. 1, p. 125, 1851 : Kurfunda, Arabia. Therefore *Mirafra pallida* Sharpe, Bull. B.O.C. 12, p. 62, 1902: Damaraland, is not preoccupied.

In place of *Mirafra pallida* Sharpe, Roberts proposed *Mirafra pallidior* Shelley, Bds. Afr. 3, p. 55, 1902. We thus have two names by two different authors given to the same bird in the same year. We know that Sharpe's name was dated 28th April, 1902, but there is no exact date of publication of Shelley's Vol. 3, nor is there any preface to this volume. This work was published by R. H. Porter who went out of business about 1913 and enquiries from several London publishing firms have failed to reveal the whereabouts of R. H. Porter's records, and so they must be presumed to have disappeared.

Shelley states that he adopted the name *Mirafra pallidior* from Sharpe's naming on the specimens in the British Museum, but we have no information as to the lapse of time between the writing of this work and its publication. In default of tracing the exact date R. H. Porter issued Shelley's vol. 3 to the public we must rely on what other information is available. The copy in the British Museum of Natural History was received on the 6th August, 1902, and the one in the British Museum Library at Bloomsbury was received on the 5th August, 1903. The reviews of this Volume 3 are to be found in the October 1902 numbers of both the 'Auk' p. 404, and the 'Ibis' p. 670.

Through the kind assistance of Mr. A. C. Townsend and his staff in the General Library of the British Museum (Natural History) no other information on the publication date of Shelley's Vol. 3 is to be found in any catalogue or other published work. The earliest definite date we have is the 6th August, 1902 and as the reviews were in the October numbers of both the 'Auk' and 'Ibis' it can be presumed that Shelley's Vol. 3 was not published in time for the reviews to appear in the July number of these journals.

It should therefore be accepted that Sharpe's *Mirafra pallida* has priority over Shelley's *Mirafra pallidior*.

