

only a simple variety of the lark of Tartary. In fact, this variable lark (*alauda mutabilis*) of Gmelin, is, like that of Tartary, of a remarkable size; the tail is somewhat forked, the plumage is black, the feathers of some parts edged with white, the beak whitish, and its tip blackish; it seems to differ only in the brown colour of its wings. Gmelin adds that its eyes are small, and of a livid brown. Age and sex produce also great differences in the colours of this bird; the female has the forehead whitish; the young ones are all of a cinereous or reddish colour, variegated with grey, and it is not till they become old that their plumage changes to black.

Another conformity between the variable lark of Gmelin and the lark of Tartary is, that the former is also silent like the latter; that in summer it keeps in the northern countries watered by the Volga, and that during winter it seeks the vicinity of inhabited places; it is then seen very common in the environs of Astracan.