

SOMBRIN TIT

*Parus lugubris* Linn.

*Is. Mésange lugubre*

We have figured on the accompanying Plate two species of TIT, nearly allied to each other in form, colour, and native locality, neither of which approaches the British Tit, nor even the more temperate parts of the European continent. The first is the *Parus lugubris*, a species that may at all times be distinguished by its greater size, extending although but to a small degree, its well-known T. shape; it is however, clothed with plumage less glossy, being chiefly devoid of those contrasts of black, white, and yellow, which characterize the plumage of that species.

Mr. Temminck informs us that the *Parus lugubris* is almost restricted to the European countries to the Asiatic border, and that although partly common in Siberia, it has never been observed in America or any part of Germany. The manners, habits and food of this species we believe to be similar to those of the British Tit; but we have no details to offer respecting them from our own experience, nor has any author to which we have access given any particulars respecting them.

The male and female are alike in plumage, and may be thus described:—The whole of the upper surface of a brownish red colour, becoming deeper on the top of the head; the secondaries and tail-feathers slightly margined with whitish; throat brownish black; the cheeks and the whole of the under surface white, slightly tinged with brownish grey, back and feet black colour.

SIBERIAN TIT

*Parus sibiricus* Gmel.

*Is. Mésange à queue blanche*

According to the *Parus sibiricus* has no great distinction as regards form or plumage, it has in its shape and general form a more elegant and graceful contour than the *Parus lugubris*. In size it is considerably smaller, having at the same time a longer and a graduated tail, although in a slight degree, a relationship to the latter called for so constantly observed over Europe, and we have to regret that the extreme rarity of the Siberian T. in Europe at least, prevents our ascertaining whether its habits and manners offer any approximation to those of the bird just referred to. Mr. Temminck, in his *Mésange*, informs us that it is an inhabitant of the most northern parts of Europe and Asia, extending to winter to some of the provinces of Russia; and we received from Sweden the specimens from which our figures were taken.

The plumage of *Parus sibiricus* may be thus described:—The upper surface is of a deep red colour, tinged on the back with brown; the gulls, secondaries and tail-feathers edged with white; throat black; cheeks and upper part of the chest pure white; under parts greenish white, washed with red on the flanks; bill and feet black colour.

Our Plate represents these two true species of the natural size.