

SOMBRE TIT.

Parus lugubris, *Natt.*

Le Mésange lugubre.

WE have figured on the accompanying Plate two species of Tits, nearly allied to each other in form, colour and native locality, neither of which approach the British Islands, 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, exceeding, although but in a small degree, our well-known *P. major*: it is, however, clothed with plumage less gaudy, being entirely devoid of those contrasts of black, white, and yellow, which characterize the plumage of that species.

M. Temminck informs us that the *Parus lugubris* is almost restricted to the European confines of the Asiatic border, and that, although pretty common in Dalmatia, it has never been observed in Austria or any part of Germany. The manners, habits and food of this species we believe to be similar to those of its British congeners; 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 ash 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 tinted with brownish grey; beak and feet lead colour.

SIBERIAN TIT.

Parus Sibericus, *Gmel.*

Le Mésange à ceinture blanche.

ALTHOUGH the *Parus Sibericus* has no great attraction as regards beauty of plumage, it has in its shape and general form a more elegant and graceful contour than the *P. lugubris*. In size it is considerably smaller, having at the same time a longer and a graduated tail, offering, though in a slight degree, a relationship to the Long-tailed Tit, so commonly dispersed over Europe; and we have to regret that the extreme rarity of the Siberian Tit, in Europe at least, prevents our ascertaining whether its habits and manners offer any approximation to those of the bird just referred to. M. Temminck, in his *Manuel*, informs us that it is an inhabitant of the most northern parts of Europe and Asia, migrating in 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 Sibericus* may be thus detailed:—The upper surface is of a deep ash colour, tinged on the back with brown; the quills, secondaries and tail-feathers edged with white; throat black; cheeks and upper part of the chest pure white; under parts greyish white, washed with rufous on the flanks; bill and tarsi lead colour.

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