## CISSA PYRRHOCYANEA.

Red and Blue Cissa.

Corvus pyrrhocyaneus, Licht. in Mus. Berlin.

Cissa puella, Blyth, Cat. of Birds in Mus. Asiat. Soc. Calcutta, p. 93?

During a visit to Berlin in the year 1843, my valued friend Professor Lichtenstein called my attention to an Indian bird in the Zoological Museum of the University of that city, to which was attached the name of Corvus pyrrhocyaneus: the bird interesting me much, I immediately made a sketch of it, and subsequently was permitted, by the kindness of the authorities of the University, to bring the specimen to London for the purpose of accurately figuring it. At that time it was the only example in Europe, and nothing farther was known respecting it than that it was from India; lately, however, another and far finer example (the Berlin specimen wanting the two middle tail-feathers) has come under my notice, in a small collection of birds brought to this country in 1848 by Aubrey J. D. Paul, Esq., who informed me that the bird inhabits Ceylon, and that his specimen was one of a pair that passed over him while shooting on the banks of the Killarneyganga. Mr. Paul added, that this rare bird frequents the hilly districts clothed with dense forests of large jungle, at an elevation of fifteen hundred feet above the sea level, is seldom seen in the plains, and gives utterance to a loud noise while flying.

On examining the "Catalogue of the Birds in the Museum of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta," recently published by that indefatigable ornithologist Mr. Blyth, I find that he has named a species of this genus from Ceylon, Cissa puella, which it is possible may be identical with the bird here represented; but as Mr. Blyth's description, which was intended to appear in the "Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal" for the present year, has not yet, I believe, reached Europe, I am unable to determine this point, and have consequently not ventured to substitute his name of puella in lieu of that given by Dr. Lichtenstein, although it is probably the first published; in which course I am sure Mr. Blyth will admit I am right; for if both be still manuscript names, that of pyrrhocyanea has the priority.

In form and size the Cissa pyrrhocyanea is very nearly allied to the Hunting Crow of Latham's Gen. Hist. vol. iii. p. 53, but is readily distinguished from that bird by the very different style of its colouring.

Head, neck, and outer webs of the primaries and secondaries dull chestnut-red; wing-coverts, spurious wing, and inner webs of the primaries and secondaries deep blue; upper and under surface dark verditer blue, deepest on the upper part of the back, the front of the neck and thighs; tail dull greenish blue, passing into black near the extremity, and largely tipped with white; bill carmine; irides red or reddish hazel; eyelashes, which are much developed and carunculated, and legs carmine.

The figure is of the natural size.