CRYPSIRHINA CUCULLATA, Jerd.

Hooded Crypsirhina.

Crypsirhina (Temia) cucullata, Jerd. in Ibis, vol. iv. p. 20.

No one of Mr. Jerdon's discoveries has interested me more than the bird figured in the accompanying Plate, inasmuch as it is new to science, and of a very curious form. Every ornithologist is well acquainted with the old *Crypsirhina varians*, and not less so with the members of the genus *Dendrocitta*; to both these forms the present bird is very nearly allied, but particularly to the latter, so much so that it is a question whether it should not be placed in that genus. In structure it is, in fact, directly intermediate between the two, the form of the bill being precisely similar to that of *Dendrocitta*, while in the number of its tail-feathers and the silky character of its plumage it assimilates with the type of the genus *Crypsirina—C. varians*.

"The tail," remarks Mr. Jerdon, "is much graduated, and, as in its congener Crypsirhina (Temia) varians, consists of ten feathers. Compared with that bird, the tail-feathers, judging from a drawing I have, are much narrower, and the broad termination more marked. The bill also appears to be comparatively shorter.

"I found this neatly plumaged little Magpie not rare at Thayetmyo, in Upper Burmah. It was generally seen singly, now and then in pairs, wanders about a good deal in low jungle, and feeds on grasshoppers, locusts, Mantides, and the like. I have seen it catching white ants as they issued from their nest in the winged state, with considerable dexterity, returning usually to the same perch. It breeds early, I imagine; for I killed young birds in June. They differ from the old ones in having the hood dusky ashy instead of black. A native Shikaree assured me that it occasionally perched on the backs of cattle, to devour the insects that often infest them."

Lores, a broad band at the base of the upper mandible, and a narrow line at the base of the lower one deep velvety black; remainder of the head and upper half of the neck glossy greenish black; immediately behind this dark colour is a broad band of greyish white, which blends posteriorly into the ashy grey of the upper and under surface; wing-coverts and tertiaries, spurious wing, primaries, and secondaries deep dull black, a few of the latter margined with white, forming with the pale edges of the wing-coverts a light stripe along the wing; four outer tail-feathers ashy grey, becoming gradually paler until they are nearly white at the tip; two centre tail-feathers dull black; iris very dark glaucous blue; bill black, except at the basal portion of the edge of the upper mandible and the base of the lower one, where it is pale yellow; legs brownish black.

The Plate represents the bird in two positions, on the Thibaudia pulcherrima.