UROCISSA CUCULLATA, *Gould.*

White-capped Blue Pie.

Psilorhinus flavirostris, Adams in Proc. of Zool. Soc., part xxvi. p. 479.
Urocissa flavirostris, Adams in ib., part xxvii. p. 172.

I DO assure my readers that I have no desire unnecessarily to increase the number of species of this or any other group of birds; on the other hand, I shall never shrink from pointing out such species as I may see reason to believe are distinct from those previously described, which may occur in any of the various forms I have undertaken to investigate. It might be considered doubtful by many persons whether two birds so closely allied, or resembling each other, as the *U. occipitalis* and *U. cucullata* are really different, but I am satisfied that I am correct in so considering and publishing them. To what cause such slight differences as they present are attributable is a question upon which zoologists will, I expect, be for a long time at variance.

In the form and the tipping of the central and other tail-feathers, this species, which is one of the most elegant and beautiful of the *Urocissæ*, most nearly resembles the *U. occipitalis*; but it differs from that bird in its bright yellow bill, and in the black cowl-like hood which occupies the crown of the head. Its shorter and less slender legs, and the lighter hue of the body, are also characters by which it may be distinguished from the yellow-billed species, to which the name of *flavirostris* has been given. I wish it to be understood that I am writing these remarks with abundant materials before me wherewith to institute comparison, namely, fully adult examples of all the known species of the genus, among which are particularly fine specimens of the present bird, presented to me by Captain Michael Tweedie, of the Royal Artillery, who killed them at Kooloo, a district which lies, I believe, a little to the north of Simla. Captain Tweedie informs me that the bird inhabits the elevated forests of this part of India, and also the north-western provinces, and that he believes it to be a migrant or summer visitant of those regions.

In a letter to Mr. Blyth, Lord Arthur Hay remarks, "It is very curious that, though the Red-billed Jay is found alone at Simla, I should have procured only the Yellow-billed one after leaving Jummoo, and in Cachemere." On this passage, Mr. Blyth remarks, that by the red-billed bird his Lordship intended *U. occipitalis*, and by the yellow-billed one, *U. flavirostris*; but I have no doubt that his remark really has reference to the bird here figured. Dr. Adams informs us that this species replaces the *U. occipitalis* in the mountains of Cashmere, that it is often met with on the banks of the Jhelum, and that its habits are similar to those of the other species. Capt. Strachey's bird from Kamoan, referred to by Dr. Horsfield and Mr. Moore, is probably identical with the present bird.

Crown black, with a few of the posterior feathers margined at the tip with white; at the nape of the neck a patch of white; cheeks, sides of the neck, throat, and breast black; upper surface bluish brown; shoulders and outer webs of the primaries and secondaries fine blue, their inner webs brownish black; all the secondaries crescented with white at the tip; primaries margined obliquely with bluish white, and with a narrow line of pure white at the tip, increasing in breadth but diminishing in length as the feathers approach the body; upper tail-coverts blue tipped with black, posterior to which is a fine transverse line of bluish white; two centre tail-feathers blue largely tipped with white; the next on each side blue tipped with white, and with a narrow band of black separating the two colours; the remainder blue largely tipped with white, the two colours separated by a broad deep band of black, immediately behind which is a mark of bluish white, which becomes narrower, longer, and of a purer white as the feathers recede from the centre; all the under surface creamy white, with a slight wash of blue; bill and legs rich lemon-yellow.

The Plate represents the bird about three-fourths of the size of life. The plant is the *Garcinia Mangostana*.