UROCISSA MAGNIROSTRIS.

Great-billed Blue Pie.

Psilorhinus magnirostris, Blyth, Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng., vol. xv. p. 27.—Ib. Cat. of Birds in Mus. Asiat. Soc. Calcutta, p. 93.

Urocissa magnirostris, Cab. Mus. Hein., p. 87, note.—Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., part xxvii. p. 200.

Mr. Blyth, of Calcutta, has the merit of first discerning the differences which exist between the present and the other known species of *Urocissa*; and the specific term of *magnirostris* assigned to it by this gentleman is, and ever will be, a very appropriate one, unless another species should be discovered with a still larger bill. Mr. Blyth states that its native habitat is the Ya-ma-dong Mountains, which separate Aracan from Pegu; but that it is not confined to that locality is certain, for I have at this moment before me a specimen with an imperfect tail, which was sent to me direct from Siam by Sir Robert Schomburgk, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Bankok. In this bird, then, we have a very distinct species of *Urocissa* inhabiting a country far away from the hilly regions of Upper India, to which nearly all the other members of the genus are confined. It is not only in the larger size of its bill that the *U. magnirostris* is distinguished from its red-billed congeners, it also differs from them in the diminutive size of the patch of white at the nape of the neck, and in the almost total absence of white spots on the feathers of the crown. Subsequently to the publication of his original description of the species, Mr. Blyth was inclined to consider that he was wrong in separating it from *U. occipitalis*; the bird, however, sent from Siam by Sir Robert Schomburgk is decidedly different from that and every other species I have yet seen.

The sexes of this and the other members of the genus are so much alike, both in size and colouring, that it is impossible to determine, from an examination of their external characters only, which is the male and which the female.

Head, sides of the neck, cheeks, throat and breast black; at the back of the neck a small patch of white; all the upper surface brownish blue; shoulders and the outer webs of the primaries and secondaries fine blue, their inner webs brownish black; all the secondaries crescented with white at the tip; central primaries margined along the middle portion of their outer web with white, and with a small patch of white at the tip; upper tail-coverts dull blue at the base, succeeded by a band of bluish white, beyond which the tip is black; middle tail-feathers blue tipped with white; lateral feathers blue at the base tipped with creamy white, the two colours separated by a broad band of black, decreasing in breadth as the feathers recede from the centre; immediately behind this black band a triangular mark of white occurs on the inner web, which in like manner decreases in size as the feathers recede from the centre; in the outer feather this mark, tinged with blue, is continued in an oblique direction on the outer web; all the under surface creamy white faintly washed with blue; bill and legs orange.

The figure is about three-fourths of the natural size. The plant is the *Thunbergia coccinea.*