

## CERTHIA NIPALENSIS, *Hodgs.*

### Nepaulese Creeper.

*Certhia Nipalensis*, Hodgs.—Blyth, Mon. of Indian *Certhiadae*.—Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. iii. Appendix, p. 7.—Blyth, Cat. of Birds in Mus. Asiat. Soc. Calcutta, p. 188.

*Certhia discolor*, Blyth, Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng., vol. xiv. p. 580?—Ib. Cat. of Birds in Mus. Asiat. Soc. Beng., p. 188?

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MR. BLYTH has published several short notices of a Creeper which he considers to be distinct from both the *C. Nipalensis* and *C. Himalayana*; and which he says is “distinguished by having the entire under parts uniform dingy brown, or very much sullied albescent; whereas in the preceding species the under parts are pure white tinged with ferruginous on the sides of the breast, and the flanks as well as the lower tail-coverts are deep ferruginous. Upon a first view it might be thought that the under parts of *C. discolor* are merely dirty, but the colour is not to be washed out, and five specimens before me are all quite similar; while in the three Nepaul specimens of the other (*C. Nipalensis*), the white is alike pure, and the flanks deep ferruginous.” I have had an opportunity of making a careful comparison of the bird, to which Mr. Blyth has assigned the appellation of *discolor*, with the true *C. Nipalensis* of Mr. Hodgson: in size, and in the general markings of their upper surface they are precisely similar; on the other hand, as Mr. Blyth states, the whole of the under surface of his *C. discolor* is of a sordid greyish brown. I do not wish to detract from the value of Mr. Blyth’s opinion, which future research may prove to be well-founded; but I have thought it better to figure both on one plate, rather than give separate representations of birds in which so slight a difference is found to exist. Mr. Blyth states in one of his papers, that the *C. discolor* is common at Darjeeling, and in another that it replaces *C. Nipalensis* in Sikim.

As will be seen on reference to the accompanying Plate, this is in every respect a typical *Certhia*. No account, so far as I am aware, has yet been given of its habits, actions or economy; but we may reasonably suppose they are very similar to those of the other members of the genus.

General plumage dark brown with a reddish tinge; the feathers of the crown with a reddish brown stripe down the centre; over each eye a broad buffy stripe; ear-coverts and upper part of the back dark brown, edged with black and with a mark of buff down the centre; wing-coverts tipped with sandy buff; primaries and secondaries crossed by a band of buff, the former also margined with buff, and the latter with a narrow line down the centre and a spot at the tip of the same colour; throat and abdomen white; flanks, upper and under tail-coverts rufous; tail reddish brown; irides dark brown; bill and feet pale brown.

The figures are of the natural size; the upper one being a representation of the *C. Nipalensis*, and the lower of the bird which Mr. Blyth names *C. discolor*.