

TESIA CYANEIVENTER, *Hodgs.*

Blue-bellied Tesia.

Tesia cyaniventer, Hodgs. Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng., vol. vi. p. 101.—Gray, List of Spec. and Draw. of Mamm. and Birds presented to Brit. Mus. by B. H. Hodgson, Esq., p. 62.—Blyth, Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng., vol. xi. p. 182, and vol. xiv. p. 586.—Ib. Cat. of Birds in Mus. Asiat. Soc. Calcutta, p. 178.—Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. i. p. 156, *Tesia*, sp. 4.—Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., p. 257, *Tesia*, sp. 1.—Horsf. Cat. of Birds in Mus. East Ind. Comp., vol. i. p. 179.
Saxicola olivacea, McClell. in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part VII. p. 161.
Tesia auriceps, Hodgs.—Blyth, Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng., vol. xvi. pp. 137, 474.
Tee-see of the Nepalese (Hodgson).

WHEN figuring such an interesting form as that to which the term *Tesia* has been given by Mr. Hodgson, the ornithologist inwardly wishes for an opportunity of visiting its native country, that he might be able to observe and to place on record some account of its habits and mode of life, which could not fail to be interesting.

The *Tesia cyaneiventer* is a rare species, and but few collections contain examples, except those of the British Museum, the Honourable East India Company, and the Asiatic Society at Calcutta, in all of which the natural history of India is well represented. It is in the rich countries of Nepal, Sikkim, and Assam that this little, almost tailless bird is to be found in a state of nature, and where it must present a very odd appearance, whether seen on the ground, or during its short flights through the dense and humid bottoms of the woods it is known to inhabit.

This bird appears to have been described by Mr. Hodgson under two different appellations, namely *cyaniventer* and *auriceps*, the former of which is the one generally adopted.

So far as we yet know, no difference occurs in the colouring of the sexes.

Head and back of the neck deep yellowish olive; remainder of the plumage deep bluish grey, washed on the back and on the edges of the wing-feathers with deep yellowish olive; the bill appears to have been olive above, yellowish beneath; the legs fleshy.

The Plate represents this little bird of the size of life, the figures being taken from specimens in my own collection. The plant is the *Epimedium pennatum*.