SUTHORA NIPALENSIS, *Hodgs.*

White-faced Suthora.

Suthora Nipalensis, Hodgs. Ind. Rev. 1838, p. 32.—Blyth, Cat. of Birds Mus. Asiat. Soc. Calcutta, p. 102.—Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., p. 334.
Temnornis Nipalensis, Hodgs. Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng., vol. xiii. pl. in p. 450.
——— *atrifrons*, Hodgs. Proc. of Zool. Soc. 1845, p. 31.

Mr. Hodgson described and made known to science the present pretty species, in the "Indian Review" for 1838, under the name of *Suthora Nipalensis*; subsequently, if I mistake not, this gentleman applied the name of *Temnornis atrifrons* to the same bird. In the British Museum collection there are several specimens, which precisely accord with each other, except in the colouring of the head and cheeks, some having those parts blue-grey, while in others the prevailing tint is nearly red; and until positive evidence to the contrary has been obtained, I cannot but consider these two birds as one and the same species; yet I am at a loss to know why these varieties have not been noticed by such an observant naturalist as Mr. Hodgson, who distinctly states the crown of the head to be blue-grey, like that of the upper bird in the accompanying Plate. If these birds should prove to be identical, of which I have but little doubt, it will be interesting to know if the variation in colour is due to age or sex, a fact which can only be satisfactorily determined in the native country of the species.

In the short note accompanying his description Mr. Hodgson says, "This bird is a native of the central and northern regions of Nepaul," and adds, "that it is observed in the Cachâr in small flocks, frequenting brushwood and tall grass; habits, manners and food of *Parus*, of which it has the entire aspect; but besides its truncated bill it differs in its rounder wings, and in its larger and less arboreal legs and feet."

Crown of the head and back of the neck brownish grey; cheeks pure grey; face and superciliary stripes white, bounded above by a broad black line; chin transversely barred with black and rusty red; upper and under surface rusty red, fading into white on the centre of the abdomen; wings dark brown, the first two or three quills edged with white, the next two or three edged at the base with rufous, and the remainder edged throughout their entire length with the same colour, but a deeper hue; tail dark brown, edged externally with rufous; bill black at the tip and bluish at the base; legs fleshy white; iris dark brown.

In some specimens the crown of the head and cheeks are rufous; in other respects the colouring is the same.

The figures are of the natural size, on the *Pinus brunoniana*.