throughout the whole of the Indo-Chinese countries, ranging into Siam and Cochin-China. It extends as far south as Tenasserim; but Mr. Hume states that near Mergui in the latter province there is already exhibited a tendency towards the Malayan race, *I. cyanea*. Mr. Oates states that he found it extremely abundant in all the evergreen forests on the eastern slopes of the Pegu hills, but that it is never seen on the western slopes or on the plains.

In his paper on the birds of the Thoungyeen valley, Captain Bingham describes his finding of a nest as follows:—"On the 11th of April I was slowly clambering along a very steep hill-side overlooking the Queebaw choung, a small tributary of the Maplay stream, when from a tree, whose crown was below my feet, I startled a female *Irena puella* off her nest. I could see the nest and that it contained two eggs; so I shot the female, who had taken to a tree a little above me. On getting the nest down I found it a poor affair of little twigs, with a superstructure of moss shaped into a hollow saucer, on which reposed two eggs, large for the size of the bird, of a dull greenish white, much dashed, speckled, and spotted with brown. They were so hard set, that I only managed to save one, which measured 1·09 by 0·77 inch."

The following description of the habits of the birds is copied verbatim from Captain Legge's 'Birds of Ceylon:'—"The Fairy Bluebird associates in small parties and affects lofty trees in foliage, feeding on their fruit. It is entirely a fruit-eating bird, and in this respect shows its affinity to the rest of the short-legged Thrushes (Brachypodidæ). It is never found, says Mr. Davison, in the deciduous forests of Tenasserim. The tenacious manner in which it confines itself to the evergreen jungle is remarkable; for he writes, 'About Pappoon, where the forests are deciduous, I never saw one; but, again, about twenty miles to the north of that place, the bird reappears with evergreen forests.' The constantly recurring supply of food in the latter naturally accounts for the predilection of the Bluebird for them; but it is strange that when deciduous woods are found in their vicinity it does not wander through them during the season of fruition. Mr. Davison writes:—'It is almost always found in flocks, but occasionally in pairs or even singly. It is a very bright and lively bird, always on the move, hopping from branch to branch or tree to tree, uttering its fine note, which resembles exactly the words "be quick, be quick." They live on fruit, I believe, exclusively, and are especially fond of figs; and where a fig-tree is in fruit great numbers congregate, with Hornbills, Green Pigeons, Fruit-Pigeons, and numbers of other fruit-eating birds. In the middle of the day they habitually come down to the banks of streams and the smaller rivers to drink and bathe.' Jerdon styles its note 'a fine mellow warble, which it is constantly repeating, both when feeding and when it flies from one tree to another.'"

I add the description of the species given by Mr. Bowdler Sharpe in the 'Catalogue of Birds':—

"*Adult male.* General colour above deep purplish cobalt, of a purer blue shade somewhat on the forehead; scapulars as well as the breast and median coverts coloured exactly like the back, the greater series blackish, with a cobalt-blue spot at the tips of some of them; quills and tail black, with a slight bluish shade on the secondaries and central tail-feathers; lores, feathers over the eye, sides of face, sides of neck, and entire under surface, including the thighs and under wing-coverts, black; under tail-coverts deep purplish cobalt; bill and legs black; iris ruby-red. Total length 10 inches, culmen 0·95, tail 4·45, tarsus 0·75, distance between tip of tail-coverts and tip of tail 1·6.

"*Adult female.* Different in colour from the male, being of a dull Prussian blue, a little brighter and inclining to cobalt on the rump and upper and under tail-coverts; wings and tail dark brown, the quills narrowly edged and the secondaries and tail-feathers washed with dull blue, the latter more conspicuously."

The Plate represents a pair of birds of the size of life, drawn from examples in my own collection.

[R. B. S.]