PARUS RUBIDIVENTRIS, *Blyth.*

Rufous-bellied Tit.

Parus rubidiventris, Blyth, Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng., vol. xvi. p. 445.—Ib. Cat. of Birds in Mus. Asiat. Soc. Calcutta, p. 104.—Ib. in Jard. Cont. to Orn. 1852, p. 50, pl. fig. 1.—Gray and Mitch., Gen. of Birds, vol. iii. App. p. 9. App. to p. 192.—Horsf. and Moore, Cat. of Birds in Mus. East Ind. Comp. vol. i. p. 372.

—— *melanolophus*, Hodgs. in Gray's Zool. Misc. 1844, p. 83.—Gray, Cat. of Spec. and Draw. of Mamm. and Birds pres. to Brit. Mus. by B. H. Hodgson, Esq., p. 73.

Machlolophus rubidiventris, Cabanis, Mus. Hein. *Oscines*, p. 91, note.

Of the habits, manners, and economy of this species of Tit, nothing whatever is known; not so, however, with regard to its habitat. Like so many of the rarer birds in our museums, it is a native of Nepal and the southern face of the Himalayan range. Specimens collected by B. H. Hodgson, Esq., grace the Collections of the British Museum and of the East India House.

In Sir William Jardine's "Contributions to Ornithology" for 1852 will be found a figure of this bird, from drawings made, I believe, by Mr. Blyth of Calcutta, who had the honour of giving it a name.

The *Parus rubidiventris* may be distinguished from all its allies by the bright rusty-red colouring of its abdomen, which colour is much richer in some specimens than in others, and occasionally is almost absent, its place being supplied by a light rufous grey. It is just possible that the sexes may present some difference in the colouring of the under surface, or that age may influence its hue; but at present this is unknown. At some future time we may acquire a knowledge of the causes which occasion these differences, not only in this, but in all the other numerous and rare species which tenant the regions of the Himalayas; at present we must content ourselves with the knowledge that the species exist, and leave it for some future natural historian to record their habits, manners, and changes.

Head and neck black, with the exception of the cheeks and ear-coverts and a stripe on the nape, which are white; upper surface, wings, and tail ashy grey; the primaries and secondaries narrowly edged with blue-grey; upper and under tail-coverts, under wing-coverts, and under surface of the body washed with rusty red; bill black; legs and feet leaden grey.

The figures are of the natural size.