DICÆUM CRUENTATUM.

Red-backed Dicæum.

Certhia cruentata, Linn. Syst. Nat. Gmel. Edit. tom. i. p. 478.
——— *Bengalensis*, Briss. Orn. tom. iii. p. 663.
——— *coccineum*, Scop.
——— *erythronotos*, Lath. Ind. Orn. vol. i. p. 290.
Red-backed Creeper, Lath. Gen. Syn. Supp. p. 132.—Ib. Gen. Hist. vol. iv. p. 241.
Le Grimpereau à dos rouge de la Chine, Sonn. Voy. aux Indes, tom. ii. p. 209. pl. 117. fig. 1.
Le Souï-manga à dos rouge, Vieill. Ois. dor. tom. ii. p. 57. pl. 35.
Black, White and Red Indian Creeper, Edw. Birds, pl. 81.
Dicæum rubricapillum, Less.
Nectarinia ignita, Begbie.
Dicæum coccineum, Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. i. p. 100, *Dicæum*, sp. 9.
——— *cruentatum*, Blyth, Cat. of Birds in Mus. Asiat. Soc. Calcutta, p. 226.

The *Dicæum cruentatum* is said to be common in the vicinity of Calcutta, and to extend its range eastward to Assam, and thence southward to Tenasserim and Malacca. It is a bird which has been long known, being described and figured in some of the oldest works on ornithology, as will be seen on reference to the synonyms given above. Captain Tytler, in his "Observations on the Fauna of Barrackpoore," states that "the little *Dicæum cruentatum*, with its scarlet back, and the little sombre *D. minimum* are very abundant, but at all times difficult to obtain, owing to their extreme minuteness, besides which they often keep in the upper branches of high trees."—Ann. and Mag. of Nat. Hist. 2nd ser. vol. xiii. p. 373.

This, I regret to say, is all the information I have been able to obtain respecting the habits and economy of this pretty species; we may conjecture, however, that they are very similar to those of its near ally, the *Dicæum hirundinaceum* of Australia, a full description of which will be found in my work on the birds of that country.

The sexes differ very materially in colour, the female being almost devoid of the scarlet colouring of the upper surface, the rump only being of that hue.

The male has the crown of the head, back, rump and upper tail-coverts deep scarlet; wing-coverts greenish black; primaries and tail dull black; sides of the face, sides of the neck and flanks dull black; centre of the throat and breast, abdomen and under tail-coverts light buff; bill black; legs and feet dusky brown.

The female has the head, upper surface, wings and sides of the face olive; rump and upper tail-coverts scarlet; under surface buff down the centre, passing into olive on the sides; bill black, except at the base of the lower mandible, where it is much paler; feet dusky brown.

The Plate represents the two sexes of the natural size.