PICUS HYPERYTHRUS.

Male & Female.

TAB. L.

PICUS HYPERYTHRUS.

Mas. *Pic. corpore supra nigro, albo-maculato, subtus rufescenti-badio; capite crissoque coccineis; strigâ utrinque per oculos extendente albâ; mandibulâ superiori nigrâ, inferiori albâ.*

Fœm. *Capite nigro albo-lineato.*

Statura *Pic. medii*, Linn.

THIS pretty little Woodpecker possesses a peculiarity in its colouring not observable throughout the whole of the family of *Picidæ*; its breast, which in most of the species of the genus is of an obscure hue, being of a lively red. The male and female are alike in this character; but they exhibit considerable differences in the colours of the head, the crown of the male being bright crimson, while his more unassuming mate possesses a less gaudy head-dress of black and white. With reference to the habits of the birds of this species, trees are stated to be their constant habitation, where, like their European congeners, they live on insects and their larvæ; and it is added that the most luxuriantly wooded parts of the Himalayan range are the principal localities in which they have been observed.

The male has the top of the head and back of the neck scarlet; the throat and a mark extending from the base of the bill through the eye, white; the back and wings black, prettily barred with white; the tail black, the outer feathers having white bars; the breast, sides of the neck, and under surface tawny rufous; the under tail-coverts scarlet; the upper mandible black, the lower yellowish white; the tarsi black.

The female, as has been before observed, differs from the male in having the top of the head and back of the neck black, thickly dotted with small points of white.

The male and female are figured of the natural size.

Gould, John. 1831. "Picus hyperythrus [Tab. L]." *A century of birds from the Himalaya Mountains* –. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.323541>.

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