bird should prove a distinct species, I would suggest the name of *Sutoria agilis* for it.

Weight of the male $2\frac{1}{2}$ drachms.

Length from bill to tail $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Alar extent $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Head: bill long, slender and curved towards the point. Culmen slightly divides the frontal feathers, and is nearly on a line with the top of the head: there is an almost obsolete notch at the end of the upper mandible. Tongue short, slightly extensible, and divided into several filaments at the point. Gape wide, commissure under the eye; a small denuded spot above the commissure. Nostrils basal, pyriform, under a tegument; some small bristles and feathers reflexed from the canthus of the eye towards the bill and over the nares. Eyes small. Iris greenish yellow. Eyelashes edged with small feathers. Eyelids bare. Four remarkable (but inconspicuous) bristles, like feathers, project from the back part of the occiput.

Wings short and perfectly rounded; first quill only half as long as the second; fourth and fifth quills are longest; the second, third and fourth graduated; the first, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh quills are emarginate on the outer web.

Tail of twelve graduated feathers, the two outer being the shortest; under-coverts are long.

Legs long, the tarsus $\frac{7}{8}$ ths of an inch; the outer toe longer than the inner. Hallux very strong, and as long as the outer toe, with a large pad beneath the base, its claw the largest; the tarsus is covered with seven scales in front and one entire behind; two large scales lie across the front of the foot; the claws are curved and sharp.

Contents of stomach a mass of insect exuviae.

Colours: all above dull green, tinged with ash, light brown towards the end of the tail and quills, which are lighter on the edges. Two-thirds of the front breadth of the neck, round the eye, the breast, belly and thighs (except a chestnut spot on the hallux) are silver-white; there is, besides, a remarkable spot on the neck, of a brown colour, as if the white feathers had been deranged, showing the roots of a different colour. Bill ash-brown or horn-colour, the lower jaw lighter, and both lighter on the edges, as also are the legs and claws of the same colour; forehead of a fine chestnut; crown of olive-brown.

3. NOTES ON A NEW SPECIES OF ARTAMUS, FROM INDIA.

By DR. NICHOLSON.

(Aves, Pl. XLIII.)

These birds are only found in very thick jungles among the brush-wood, where they are always moving about, and are shot with great difficulty, and even then, if not killed outright, they are so tenacious of life, that they creep into the first hole or crevice they come to. The only note I ever heard was like 'chick, chick.' I think they

are residents, but the few I have seen just appear and are lost again in a moment, so that I know little of their habits; the one figured here had one leg and both wings broken, and still crept into the hole of a jerboa-rat, from which I dug it out dead.

Male: weight $6\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

Length from bill to tip of tail $7\frac{2}{8}$ inches. Alar extent 10 inches.

Head large. Bill strong, narrow and sharp, gently arched on the culmen; a distinct notch near the tip of upper mandible; gape wide. Tongue horny and divided at the point. Nostrils basal, small. Eye rather small. Iris of a silvery colour, tinged with yellow.

Wings rounded; first quill very short; third longest; second, third and fourth quills emarginate on outer web.

Tail short, and nearly even at the end, of twelve feathers, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches long.

Tarsus strong. Hallux and claw stronger than the other toes, and as long as the inner toe, and has a large pad at its base; the outer toe is shortest; the claws are much hooked.

Contents of stomach were a few grains of *Holcus spicatus* and the exuviae of insects.

Plumage is soft and loose.

Colours: the whole top of the head is covered with a cap of black. Bill lead-colour at base and black at the point. The chin, the breast, and all underneath white; the body all above of a leaden colour. Quills and tail of a light black, edged with light on both webs; the outer web of the outer tail-feather is white, as well as the tips of the first five on each side. Feet and legs black.

I propose for this species the name of *Artamus cucullatus*.

4. OBSERVATIONS ON THE BREEDING OF THE NIGHTINGALE IN CAPTIVITY.

BY H. HANLEY, SERGEANT-MAJOR 1ST LIFE GUARDS.

Being of opinion that any bird which breeds in this country in a wild state, might, by studying its habits, be brought to do so in a state of captivity, I made preparations during the winter of 1844 for trying the Nightingale, which I considered to be the most retired in its habits of any of our summer visitants. I had a cage made, 4 feet long by 3 feet high, the back, ends and top solid, with a wire front, in which I placed a small Scotch fir-tree, planted in a flower-pot; to each end of the cage I attached a common-sized canary's breeding-cage, communicating with the large cage by a hole about 4 inches square. I broke a new birch-broom, and filled up the cages at each end, to make them resemble as near as possible the bottom of a thick hedge, and then put in a plentiful supply of withered oak-leaves and moss, of which the nightingale forms its nest, covering the fronts of the two small cages with green glazed calico: I placed the cages high up against a wall facing a landing-window. The following spring, that is, about the latter end of April 1845, I directed a bird-catcher (Blake, of John-street, Tottenham-court-road), who goes to Watford