

## TITMICE

### Family PARIDÆ

Vol. I., p. 261.

ONLY two members of this family occur at all in the Malay Peninsula, of which one, *Melanochlora sultanea flavocristata*, the Malay sultan-tit, a black-and-yellow crested bird, about 7 or 8 in. long, has already been described in Volume I.

This bird is common in flocks in the more open jungle, and on the edges of clearings in hilly country, and ascends the mountains to about 4500 ft., above which it is never found. At low elevations in Negri Sembilan, Johore and Pahang, it is one of the commonest of the forest birds.

The other Malayan member of the family is a true tit (connected with the English great tit) to which the name *Parus cinereus ambiguus* is now assigned, though it has hitherto been more generally known as *Parus cinereus* or *Parus atriceps*. Up to the present time this bird has been met with either among mangroves or Casuarinas, in a few localities on the east and west coasts of the Peninsula. The same bird is found in a similar habitat both in Java and in Sumatra, but in these islands, it is worthy of note, the species is *also* found at great elevations in the mountains, to a height of 10,000 ft., and even more. Possibly the same may be the case in the Malay Peninsula, and the attention of bird lovers is drawn to the matter.

This tit can hardly be mistaken for any other bird. Its length is about 5 in. Head, throat, breast and middle of belly, black; sides of the breast and flanks, grey, a large white patch on the sides of the head; back and wing coverts, grey, and a white bar on the wing. The bird will be found in small parties on the lower boughs of trees and in shrubs, probably, should it occur at all, in broken and rugged ground near the tops of the hills and on the ridges.