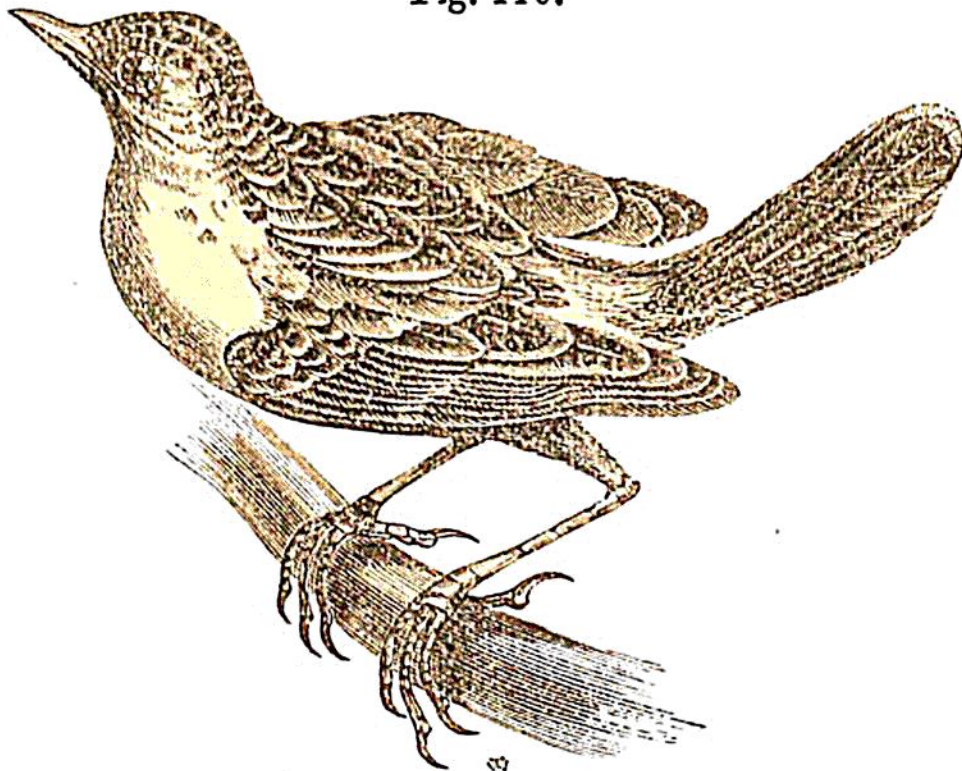


and sew them with cotton, thread, and fibres. Colonel Sykes has seen some in which the thread was literally knotted at the end.\* The Indian birds of this description form two genera, separated from *Sylvia* by Dr. Horsfield.† The inside of these nests is lined usually with down and cotton.

But these birds are not confined to India or tropical countries; Italy can boast a species which exercises the same art: and I am indebted to the kindness of one of our most eminent ornithologists‡ for being enabled to give a figure of this pretty and interesting bird, from a specimen in his possession;‡ and to the Zoological Society

Fig. 110.



Sylvia Cisticola.

for their permission to have a drawing made from a nest in their museum.§ This little creature was originally described and figured by M. Temminck in 1820, but its singular instincts, as to its mode of nidification, were

\* Catalogue of Birds, &amp;c. 16.

† Prinia and Orthotomus.

‡ Mr. Gould.

§ Fig. 111.