

FRONTISPIECE.

THE Bird represented in the Frontispiece is an uncommon variety of the Great Titmouse; the general colour of the plumage is so much darker than in that Bird, as on the first inspection, to make it pass for a different species: but on a nicer investigation, the general distribution of the colours of the greater Titmouse may be evidently traced throughout: the greatest singularity is that of the bill; having both the mandibles elongated and curved, in a particular manner, and crossing each other, as in the Crossbill.

This singular bird was taken up before it was quite dead, in the street at Feversham in Kent: it was sent to me by Mr. Jacob, an able naturalist of that Town. It appeared to have been shot, and to have dropped when it could fly no further; if the amazing difference between the make of the bill in its natural state, and that which appears in this specimen be considered, it appears extraordinary how the bird could have subsisted; notwithstanding which it seemed to be in pretty good condition.