colours of this species; its beak is straight, long, and compressed at the sides; the feathers at the base of the beak incline forwards, and cover the nostrils. It has strong feet, crooked claws proper for seizing small birds, ten quill feathers in the tail, the two prime ones being longer than the lateral ones.

It is one third less than the European jay; the front part of the head and throat are black; the forehead is white; the top part of the head and the neck are of a deep cinereous grey; the cheeks white; the back, the rump, and the small quill feathers of the wings grey; the breast and the belly the same, but not so clear; the large quill feathers of the wings and tail brown; the iris of a reddish yellow; the beak and the feet black.