



MONOGRAPH OF THE PARADISEIDÆ,  
 OR  
**BIRDS OF PARADISE,**  
 AND  
 PTILONORHYNCHIDÆ,  
 OR  
**BOWER-BIRDS.**

BY  
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 (ZOOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT, BRITISH MUSEUM).

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 — MELANOTIS.  
 — BUCCOIDES.

TO BE COMPLETED IN SIX PARTS.

LONDON:  
 PUBLISHED BY HENRY SOTHERAN & CO., 37 PICCADILLY, W., & 110 STRA D, W.



BOOK NO.  
**558**

PARYPHEPHORUS DUIVENBODII, Meyer.

W. Bart del et lith.

*duivenbodii*, Bird of Paradise

Montern Bros imp.

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LOPHORHINA SUPERBA (Penn)

Superb bird of Paradise

## LAMPORNIS CALOSOMA, Elliot.

Elliot's Topaz.

*Chrysolampis chlorolæmus*, Elliot, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (4) vi. p. 346 (1870).  
*Lampornis calosoma*, Sclater & Salvin, Ibis, 1871, p. 429.—Elliot, Ibis, 1872, p. 351.—  
Mulsant, Hist. Nat. Ois.-Mouches, i. p. 177.—Elliot, Synops. Humming-birds, p. 41.

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It is now ten years ago since this beautiful species was described by my friend Mr. Elliot; and the specimen still remains unique in the collection of the latter gentleman. As he observes, I gave him my opinion at the time that the species ought to be placed in the genus *Chrysolampis*; and although in deference to the judgment of Mr. Salvin and Mr. Elliot I go so far as to follow them in the present work and place it in the genus *Lampornis*, I believe in my innermost heart that they are mistaken, and that the bird is a true *Chrysolampis*—if, indeed, it should not be placed in a genus by itself. I would ask any body to compare the figures which I have drawn in order to show both the back and front views of the bird, and to say which form the present species most resembles, *Lampornis* or *Chrysolampis*. It has not the long bill nor the forked tail of the former genus, characters in my opinion quite sufficient to separate it from that; but, on the other hand, let it be compared with *Chrysolampis moschitus*, in how many characters they agree! First, there is the small bill, the metallic crown, the darker back, and the rounded tail, with the coppery-brown central tail-feathers, though it is true that in *L. calosoma* the remainder of the rectrices are purple; still the general character of the plumage is like that of *C. moschitus*; and, again, on the under surface the metallic throat, the dark belly, the chestnut under tail-coverts, and the under surface of the tail all remind us of the last-named species. If, therefore, as I anticipate, the bird should be one day replaced in the genus *Chrysolampis*, the specific name of *chlorolæmus* will have to be restored as well.

Mr. Elliot writes:—"The habitat of this species is unknown; but it is not unlikely that it may be a native of the West-Indian Islands, of whose ornithology we at present know nothing. If this supposition should prove to be correct, a fine field still remains unexplored for some enterprising naturalist; for among the members of the genus *Lampornis* the present species is one of the very handsomest, and doubtless many equally fine birds in this and other families are still unknown to science to reward the researches of the explorer."

The following description is given by Mr. Elliot in his 'Synopsis':—

"*Male*. Top of head and neck pale metallic silvery green, in some lights purplish; a black band across the back; rest of upper parts dark green; tail fiery copper-colour, the feathers margined with blackish purple; throat brilliant emerald-green; underparts purplish black; spot of white on the flanks; under tail-coverts chestnut; bill black.

"Total length 4 inches, wing  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , tail  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , culmen  $\frac{1}{4}$ ."

The Plate contains two figures of the unique type, and shows both back and front views of the bird, for reasons specified above. I am indebted to Mr. Elliot for the loan of the specimen from which the figures are drawn.



PAROTIA LAWESI, Ramsay.

Southern Six-plumed Bird of Paradise

W. Bart del. et lith.

Mutres. Dros. reg.

## LOPHORNIS ADORABILIS, *Salvin.*

### Salvin's Coquette.

*Lophornis adorabilis*, Salvin, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1870, p. 207.—Elliot, Syn. p. 135.  
*Dialia adorabilis*, Muls. Hist. Nat. Oiseaux-Mouches, vol. iii. p. 208, pl., 1876.

MR. SALVIN must have been pleased when the male of this Humming-bird came under his notice, and when he saw how different it was from all its immediate allies. The extreme beauty of the little fairy demanded some pretty euphonious name; and he applied to it that of *adorabilis*, one which, I doubt not, will last to the end of time. The well-read Trochilidist will not require to be told that there are now ten species of this ornamental group, nine of which have been figured in vol. iii. of the 'Monograph,' published twenty years ago.

The tenth, which I now figure, will, I trust, with many others equally rare, add materially to the usefulness and interest of this 'Supplement.'

In my former work I placed all the species enumerated below in the single genus *Lophornis*; but since that date they have been separated into no less than five genera, none of which was proposed by myself, though I think that they are very fairly recognizable:—

<i>Lophornis ornatus.</i> Trinidad.	<i>Telamon reginæ.</i> Colombia.
——— <i>gouldiæ.</i> North Brazil.	<i>Dialia adorabilis.</i> Veragua.
——— <i>magnificus.</i> South Brazil.	<i>Paphosia helenæ.</i> Guatemala.
<i>Telamon regulus.</i> Bolivia.	<i>Bellatrix chalybeus.</i> Bolivia.
——— <i>delatruü.</i> Colombia.	——— <i>verreauxi.</i> Peru, Colombia.

The following is Mr. Osbert Salvin's account of this novelty:—"This beautiful species is singularly distinct from any of its congeners, but perhaps belongs rather to the *L. magnifica* group than to that containing *L. helenæ*. In the whole genus, however, no other member has the erectile feathers on the forehead, the thread-like white plumes of the crest, or the long pointed feathers of the throat, all of which render this bird most distinct when compared with its allies.

"The first specimen obtained by Arcé was a female, which, though evidently belonging to a distinct species, I hesitated to describe. The specimen was shot at Bugaba. The last collection includes the male, which Arcé tells me his brother David obtained high up on the volcano of Chiriqui. That so fine a bird should have remained so long undiscovered seems singular; but the fact, I think, shows that the range of the species is extremely limited.

"No less than two other species of *Lophornis* are found in this portion of Central America, viz.:—*L. helenæ*, the Mexican and Guatemalan bird, which is also to be met with in Costa Rica; and the southern *L. delatruü*, which seems to be abundant about Calobre and on the Isthmus of Panama."

Mr. Elliot states that the male has the forehead ruby-red; crown pure white, narrowing to a point on the occiput, from each side of which springs a few narrow, lengthened, dark green feathers; sides of the head, bordering the white, dark brown; back and wing-coverts bronzy green; rump dark purple, crossed by a narrow white band; throat metallic dark green; upper part of the breast white; flanks bronzy green; abdomen and under tail-coverts dark rufous; tail deep rufous, with the tips of the median feathers and edges of the others greenish brown; wings purple.

*Female.* Head and ears black; throat white, sparingly spotted with golden green; tail banded with a broad bar near the extremity; median rectrices tinged in the middle with a greenish tint.

Total length  $2\frac{3}{8}$  inches, wing  $1\frac{3}{8}$ , tail  $1\frac{3}{8}$ , culmen  $\frac{3}{8}$ .



SELEUCIDES NIGRICANS, ♀ ad & juv.

## CYNANTHUS BOLIVIANUS, *Gould.*

Bolivian Sylph.

*Cynanthus bolivianus*, Gould, Annals of Nat. Hist., vol. v., June 1880.

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ALL the species of this genus inhabit the high lands of tropical districts, such as the temperate regions of Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. These flying gems neither ascend to the summit of the mountains nor descend to the hot plains below, but keep to the hills and secluded valleys. In such situations vegetation reigns supreme, and insect life, both in genera and species, is lavishly bestowed.

The present species, according to Mr. Buckley, goes further south than any other of the Sylphs. It is a bird (delicate as it may appear) which braves the cold of the mountains—so severe, in fact, that it was with difficulty he succeeded in procuring specimens. He obtained, however, examples of both sexes in fine condition, these birds having just completed their moult. Mr. Buckley, about five years ago, offered me the green-tailed Sylphs which he had collected in Bolivia, and I was pleased to find in them a species I had not met with before.

I described the bird, therefore, in the 'Annals of Natural History' for June 1880, and I have no doubt that the species will be found to be a perfectly distinct one. The following is the description which I contributed to the 'Annals':—

"Mr. Clarence Buckley, who has distinguished himself by his zoological researches in South America, passed, as is well known, some considerable time in Bolivia some few years ago. On his return to this country I became the fortunate possessor of many of his specimens of Humming-birds; but, owing to the illness which has afflicted me for a considerable time, I have not been able, till lately, to incorporate Mr. Buckley's specimens in my collection of Trochilidæ. Having now been able to examine my series more closely, I have come to the conclusion that two species, at least, are new to science.

"*Cynanthus bolivianus*, sp. n.—Similar to *C. mocoa* from Ecuador, but much smaller and of a brighter metallic green, and with the tail more of a brilliant steel-blue than a vivid green. Total length 6·3 inches, culmen 0·7, wing 2·6, tail 4·1, tarsus 0·2.

"I possess several males of this new species, as well as of the allied *C. mocoa*; so that it is not without ample material before me that I describe the Bolivian bird as new to science."

The Plate represents two males and one female.



CRASPEDOPHORA ALBERTI, Gray.

W. Hart del. et lith.

*Prince Albert's Rifle-bird*

Mintern Bros. imp.

## PINAROLÆMA BUCKLEYI, Gould.

### Buckley's Mountain Humming-bird.

*Pinarolæma Buckleyi*, Gould, Ann. & Mag. of Nat. Hist. ser. 5, vol. v. p. 489 (June 1880).

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A SINGLE specimen only of this species has as yet been obtained. This is in such ragged plumage that its markings can only be determined with difficulty. The specimen was moulting when it was shot; and much of the colour has faded from the old feathers. The tail and the throat, however, are pretty perfect; and these parts, together with a few new feathers, are tinted so as to indicate sufficiently clearly the colour of the plumage of the perfect bird. Any Trochilidist would be instantly convinced of the fact that this specimen belongs to a new species of Humming-bird in a bad state of plumage; and it rests with future travellers to discover others in perfect plumage where this individual was procured. Some Trochilidists believe the specimen to be a female, others a male; my own opinion is that it is the latter; but the bird is in moult, and probably very much altered. Mr. Buckley, whose name it bears, was the discoverer of this bird; he killed it at Misqui, in Bolivia, the height of the spot where it was found being 10,000 feet above the sea.

When the male of this bird is clean-mantled, I think, judging by the tail and throat and the spots of purple alternating with the old brown feathers in places throughout the upper surface, it will prove to be a finer bird than it now appears.

I regret I have no information to give respecting its actions, habits, and mode of feeding; but, from its long wings and little feet, I judge that the present bird is a good flyer, and perhaps depends for its food upon insects caught in the air rather than taken from flowers in the usual way.

I regret I have nothing more to add to the little already published, which runs as follows:—"The general appearance of this bird reminds me of *Lampornis*; but it has an extremely long wing. In the latter respect it resembles *Oreotrochilus*; but it differs from that genus in its strongly curved and lengthened bill and in its very broad tail-feathers, while its extremely small feet seem peculiar to the genus." So much refers to form; in what follows, colour and admeasurements are attended to.

"Brown, with a purplish gloss on the back; the upper tail-coverts and tail-feathers brown, glossed with purple, and having a subterminal band of steel-blue; under surface of body brown, slightly washed with metallic green; the throat lighter brown, the feathers edged with paler brown, giving a scaly appearance; vent and under tail coverts white, the latter washed with brown.

"Total length 4.6 inches, culmen 1.05, wing 2.95, tail 1.85, tarsus 0.15.

"*Habitat.* Misqui, Bolivia, 10,000 feet."



CRASPEDOPHORA MANTOUI, Oustalet.

J. G. Kuhlmann & Hart del. et lith.

Mantou & Pella - Ind.

Mintern. Bres imp.

## MICROCHERA PARVIROSTRIS.

### Purple Snowcap.

*Panychlora parvirostris*, Lawr. Proc. Acad. Phil. 1865, p. 39.

*Microchera parvirostris*, Salvin, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1867, p. 154.—Lawr. Ann. of the Lyceum of Nat. Hist. of New York, 1870, p. 122.—Elliot, Synopsis, 1879, p. 104.—Muls. Hist. Nat. Oiseaux-Mouches, vol. iii. p. 137.

In this new Snowcap the silky white covering of the crown is wider, longer, and seems to stand out further over the crown, overshadowing the eyes; all the upper surface, from the occiput to the upper tail-coverts, is reddish purple; this colour extends over the shoulders and the chest down to the lower part of the belly; but here the purple is not quite so brilliant. There are light-grey hairy feathers under the tail of my birds, which appear to drop on the slightest touch; the bill is straight and elegantly formed; wings very long and curved, primaries purplish brown. The throat- and ear-coverts consist of small scaled feathers of a greenish colour, which stand out conspicuously from the rest.

The following description is from the pen of Mr. Lawrence; and it gives me great pleasure to repeat it in my letterpress. Mr. Lawrence states:—"My name for this species was proposed for the female; the male (since received) is very beautiful, of which I add the following description:—Front and crown pure white; lores black; the rest of the plumage above and below is of an exceedingly rich purplish crimson; upper tail-coverts coppery red; the four central tail-feathers are coppery bronze; the others are of a whitish grey for about half their length, gradually becoming purplish black, the extreme ends white; wings brownish purple; bill and feet black.

"Total length of male 3 inches, wing  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , tail  $\frac{3}{4}$ , bill  $\frac{1}{16}$ .

"Remarks.—Although resembling *M. albocoronata* in its white crown, this species is quite different in colouring. In *M. albocoronata* the plumage is black, washed with carmine, in some lights appearing to be entirely black. In *M. parvirostris* the plumage is clear and uniform in colour, not appearing black in any position. The tail is rounded; and the black colouring at the end is quite different from that of *M. albocoronata*, in which the tail is even, and it has a strongly defined subterminal black band."

In the Plate there are three males and one female; the latter I will now attempt to describe. The bill is rather curved and longer than the head; crown, underpart of the neck, shoulders, back, and upper tail-coverts bronzy green; the tail-feathers are short, the middle ones uniform and bronzy in colour, the three outer bluish grey; the same colour runs on the triangular tips of each of the lateral feathers; the throat and all the under surface is light grey; feet small, with greyish feathers about halfway down the tarsus.

*Female*. Total length  $2\frac{3}{4}$ , wing  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , tail  $\frac{3}{4}$ , bill  $\frac{1}{8}$ .





DREPANORNIS CERVINICAUDA (Sclater).

## ELVIRA CUPREICEPS.

### Coppercrown.

*Eupherusa cupreiceps*, Lawr. Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York, viii. p. 348 (1867).

*Thaumatias cupreiceps*, Sclater & Salvin, Nomencl. Av. Neotr. p. 92.

*Elvira cupreiceps*, Mulsant, Hist. Nat. Oiseaux-Mouches, i. p. 268.—Elliot, Synops. Humming-birds, p. 210.

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THIS pretty little Humming-bird is a native of Costa Rica, where it would appear to have a restricted range, as only a limited number of specimens have reached us from that country. When I finished my 'Monograph,' in 1860, only one species of the genus was known, the *Elvira chionura* of Veragua and Costa Rica, which I at that time placed in the genus *Thaumatias*; and to the latter genus the present bird has been referred by Messrs. Sclater and Salvin. The genus *Elvira* was instituted by MM. Mulsant and Verreaux for the reception of *E. chionura*; and the latter bird and *E. cupreiceps* are at present its sole tenants. As pointed out by Mr. Elliot, the last-named species has the middle tail-feathers coppery bronze instead of bronzy green; and the lateral ones are white tipped with bronze, instead of being white with the apical portions black.

Altogether this species is a very interesting one, as showing a representative of an otherwise unique form; and I have great pleasure in figuring it in my 'Supplement.' I have never wavered in my affection for the Humming-birds; and now that the number of novelties has reached a respectable total, I find myself in a position to issue a sister volume to the 'Monograph,' which I hope may not be unworthy of its predecessors. In such a case as the present it is eminently useful to have good figures, in order to assist in the identification of the species, although the birds may not be so striking as some which it has fallen to the lot of recent writers to describe.

As I have perfect specimens of this bird, I will give a description of the colouring of both sexes, which their fine condition enables me to do.

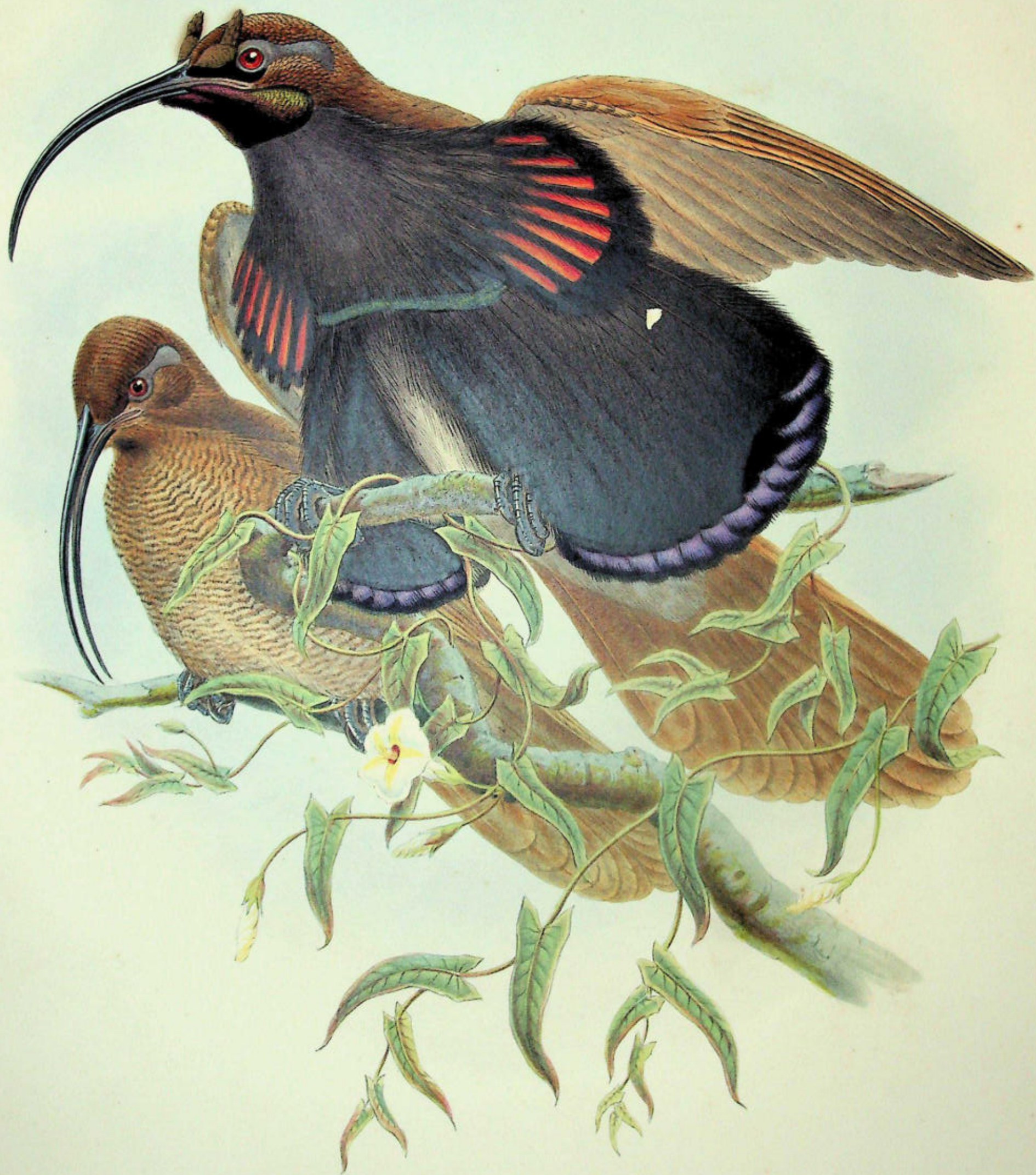
*Male*.—Bill rather curved and quite as long as the head; crown coppery, with greenish reflections; the hinder part of the head, the neck, shoulders, and the whole of the back are of a dull yellowish green, while all the underparts, from the neck to the vent, are light shining green, which looks soft and not glittering; the upper tail-coverts are golden bronze; the four middle tail-feathers are bronzy; the three outer on each side are white, except the extreme tips, which are stained with greyish brown; the wings are brown, tinged with red.

The *female* is a much plainer bird than the male; the bill is somewhat curved and even more lengthened; the crown, in colour, is of a redder cast than the back, which is dull golden green. The upper tail-coverts are very like those of the male, and the middle long tail-feathers nearly of the same colour, while the three outer feathers are white with a triangular mark of brown near the end; the throat and under surface are white, except the flanks, which are greenish.

Total length of the male  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches, wing  $1\frac{3}{4}$ , tail  $1\frac{1}{4}$ , bill  $\frac{5}{8}$ .

Total length of female 3 inches, wing  $1\frac{3}{4}$ , tail  $1\frac{1}{4}$ , bill  $\frac{5}{8}$ .

The Plate contains two males and a female, of the natural size.



DREPANORNIS ALBERTISI, *Sclater*:

*J. Gould & W. Hart del. et lith.*

*3 Albertin Bird of Paradise*

*Mintern Bros. imp.*

## OREONYMPHA NOBILIS, Gould.

### Bearded Mountaineer.

*Oreonympha nobilis*, Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1869, p. 295.—Sclater & Salvin, *tom. cit.* p. 600.  
—Whitely, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1874, p. 676.—Mulsant & Verr. Hist. Nat. Ois.-  
Mouches, iii. p. 139.—Elliot, Synopsis of the Trochilidæ, p. 157.

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Nobody who has examined a specimen of this Humming-bird has hesitated to designate it as one of the most striking of the whole family; and as for myself, I look upon it as one of the finest species of Humming-bird that I ever described. Its large size and the great development of the feathers of its crown and beard render it a remarkable bird to look at; and the admirable way in which the original skins were prepared justify the large price of twenty pounds which I had to pay for my first specimen.

After recording the capture of the species, I at once requested Mr. Whitely to write to his son in Peru urging him to endeavour to procure the female, and also to send some notes on the species itself. The result was that the hen bird was soon afterwards forwarded by Mr. Henry Whitely, together with a note on the habits of the Bearded Mountaineer. "The first specimen," he says, "I obtained of this bird was at Tinta; but I have since found it in the province of Cuzco, and also on the highroad between Tinta and Cuzco. How strange it seems, after so many years have passed since the discovery of Peru, and so many distinguished people have travelled over the same road, that they have never made mention nor obtained a specimen of this beautiful bird!

"Its flight is very peculiar. It takes a flight from one flower in the direction of another, perhaps some two or three hundred yards off, and all of a sudden comes to a dead stop, throws the body up vertically, the tail being spread out, and the beautiful crown and beard glittering in the sunshine. This action is frequently repeated in the passage from one flowering shrub to another, evidently for the purpose of taking insects in the air.

"This is one of the few Humming-birds where colour is seen to great advantage. In most of the species it is never seen till the bird is shot; this is especially observable in *Agleactis castelnaudi*, where male and female are adorned with a tuft of white feathers on the breast, and it is impossible to distinguish male from female in the living state."

The following is the original description which I gave of this beautiful bird:—

"Bill and legs black; crown blue, with a streak of black down the centre; on the throat a lengthened streak of brilliant feathers, of which those nearest the bill are green, those which succeed are reddish purple, the whole being bordered on each side with black; sides of the neck and chest greyish white; abdomen, flanks, and under tail-coverts mottled white, grey, and light brown; back of the neck and upper surface bronzy brown; wings purplish brown; outer tail-feather on each side white, with a longitudinal streak of bronzy brown at the tip of the inner web; the next on each side the same, but the bronzy mark of greater extent; the centre feathers entirely bronze as in *Oxygogon*. Total length 6 inches, bill  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , wing  $3\frac{1}{2}$ , tail 3, tarse  $\frac{1}{4}$ ."

The Plate represents two old males and a female, drawn from specimens in my own possession. These were procured by Mr. Henry Whitely at a height of 11,500 feet above the level of the sea.

Notwithstanding the long and stout bill, I consider this form to be allied to *Oxygogon* and *Rhamphomicron*; all three forms have the gular ornament, as well as a laxity of plumage and very flexible tail-feathers.

I consider my Plate is improved by the introduction of one of the shrubs of the Andes (*Chuquiraga insignis*), sent home by my departed friend Jameson. This sprig was hung up in the shade and not put under pressure.

Sizes of female and young male, with their colours, are now given:—

*Female.* Crown of head brown, covered with very fine feathers, speckled with dull green; throat brown,

OROSTRIS ALBA

descending to a point, forming a kind of triangle; the sides of the neck, chest, and belly greyish white; under tail-coverts brown; wings brown; back olive-brown; tail slightly forked, the short centre feathers and some of the next beautiful bronze; the single outer feathers on each side, which are the longest, are quite white. Bill long and narrow; feet moderate; the tarsi covered with brown feathers. The young male a fifth larger than the female, with the crown more slightly sprinkled with spots.

Total length of female 5 inches, bill 1, wing  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , tail  $2\frac{1}{2}$ .



ASTRAPIA SPLENDIDISSIMA, Rothschild.

Rothschild - Bird of Paradise

## THALURANIA HYPOCHLORA, *Gould.*

### Citado Wood-Nymph.

*Thalurania hypochlora*, Gould, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1870, p. 804.—Salvin & Elliot, Ibis, 1873, p. 360.—Elliot, Synopsis of the Trochilidæ, no. 102.—Mulsant, Hist. Nat. Ois.-Mouches, tom. iii. p. 66.

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THE discovery of this fine Wood-Nymph is due to Mr. Buckley, who procured both sexes at Citado, in Ecuador. Soon afterwards these specimens came into my possession, and, I am happy to say, are in fine condition. If we examine the adult male it will be found that the crown of the head is a beautiful green like the under surface, the uniform green colour of which forms one of this bird's chief characteristics. The Brazilian bird, *Thalurania glaucopsis*, somewhat resembles it; but that bird has the crown blue and not green like *T. hypochlora* or many other Wood-Nymphs. It also has been compared to *T. verticeps*, and others have been considered somewhat like it. It is in the green colour of the crown being the same as that of the under surface that *T. hypochlora* differs from any other Wood-Nymph. As might be expected in a bird so recently discovered, nothing has been recorded of its habits, which must be like those of its near allies.

The colouring of the male may be thus described:—Three parts of the crown and entire underparts of the body a beautiful green; upper surface (that is, from the occiput to the tail-coverts) deep grass-green, with a beautiful patch of blue on the shoulder extending for a short distance onto each side of the breast; under tail-coverts blackish blue, edged with white; bill black; feet brownish black.

*Female.* All the upper surface grass-green; throat, abdomen, and under tail-coverts grey, darker and inclining to green on the flanks; tail purplish black, slightly tipped with white, the white tipping being of lesser extent than on the outer feathers. Size rather less than that of male.

Total length of male 4 inches, bill  $\frac{1}{2}$ , wing  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , tail  $1\frac{3}{4}$ .

*Habitat.* Citado, in Ecuador.

The Plate represents two males and a female, of the natural size.



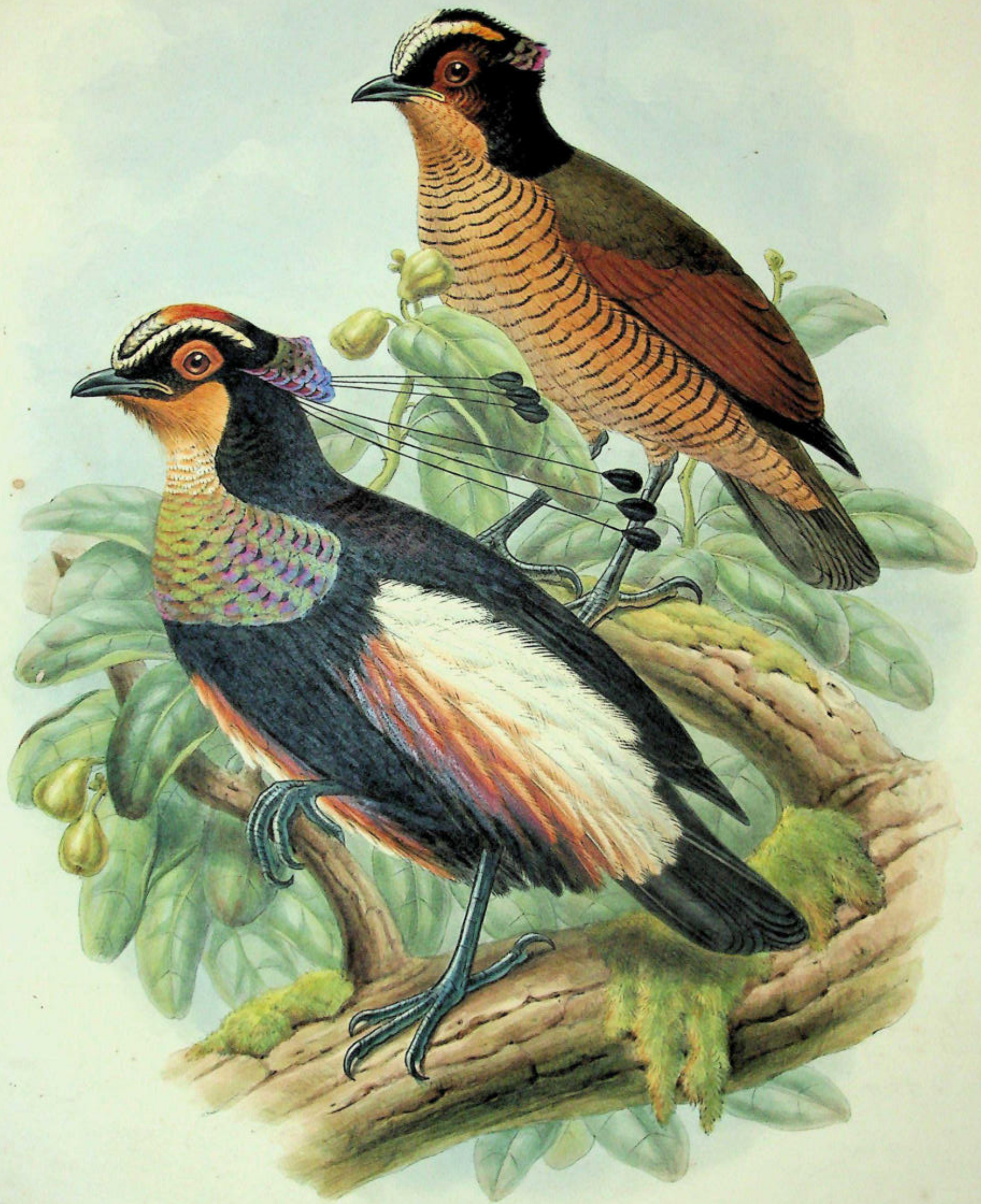


EPIMACHUS MEYERI, Finsch.

W. Hart del. et lith.

Meyer's Sickle-billed Bird of Paradise

Mintern Bros. imp.



*Parotia carola*, Meyer.

ad. juv. ♂

the young ♂ is also painted with the 5 plumes like the adult  
as to the crown of the tail comp. my remarks in vol. II. 1895, p. 33.

examined records and sp.

(Proby)

## HYLONYMPHA MACROCERCA, Gould.

### Great Forked-tailed Humming-bird.

*Hylonympha macrocerca*, Gould, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1873, vol. xii. p. 429.—Elliot, Synopsis of the Trochilidæ, p. 79.—Mulsant, Hist. Nat. Ois.-Mouches, tom. iii. p. 57.

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IN looking over the above references it will be seen that seven years have passed since I first became acquainted with this fine bird. Mr. Whitely, of Woolwich, called on me one day unexpectedly, and said "I have a fine new Humming-bird to show you; and if you wish it, it may be placed in your cabinet; and afterwards this unique specimen may be figured in your Supplement." For this offer I tendered my thanks, saying that the public would be as much gratified as I was. I then urged him to do all he could to obtain the female, as well as more males. He answered:—"No perseverance shall be wanting on my part; but I shall not easily succeed. Few of the public know that a considerable trade is carried on between Brazil and London almost solely in birds' skins and feathers; these are only for decoration. Humming-birds of any kind are preferred for the skirts of ladies' dresses, the hair, and bonnets. Few of the birds are shot; the rich landlords employ their slaves, who set finely meshed nets in the glades of the forest to catch them."

Thousands of the beautiful ruby and topaz Humming-birds are sent to this metropolis every year. As these seldom undergo a critical examination, it has frequently struck me that my new bird was imported in this way. But after waiting seven years for the female without success, and no other male appearing, I had determined to give a representation of the unique male. Suddenly all these plans were frustrated by the arrival of seventy males and two females, to the astonishment of every person fond of Humming-birds. Every Trochilidist wondered how so large a bird could have escaped the notice of travellers, and particularly traders in such countries as Brazil, and with myself have eagerly desired to ascertain the particular district of that huge empire it inhabits. This is now, I think, positively known. Mr. Henry Whitely states, this bird lives in the "Matura district, Manawas, on the river Bia, North Brazil."

The great number of males which arrived the other day showed me that some variety exists in that sex; in some the longest tail-feathers are pointed, in others rounded, the latter being two inches shorter than the former.

Its nearest ally is *Heliodoxa leadbeateri*, and not *Thalurania* (as first suggested in the 'Annals').

Bill stout, somewhat curved, a little longer than the head; wings rather long and falciform; feet and toes small; tarsi clothed; tail ample, deeply forked, and larger in comparison with the size of the body than that of any other member of the family. Crown of the head glittering blue, with a reflection of green towards the edges; throat very fine green, passing into dull green on the flanks; abdomen black, glossed with green; feathers clothing the tarsi dark brown on the outer side, and white on the inner; under tail-coverts black; all the ten feathers of the tail, the outer ones of which are very broad, a uniform steel-black.

Total length  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches, bill 1, wing  $2\frac{3}{4}$ , tail 6, tarse  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The female differs from the male in that it has a much shorter tail and is very much varied in colour. The bill is like that of the male; and of the form of the wing the same may be said. The colouring of the tail of the female is very variable; the outer feather is tipped with greyish white as in my illustration, while the long swinging tail of the male is black from end to end. The admeasurements of the female are—total length about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches, wing  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , tarse  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

The Plate represents male and female, natural size.



PARADISEA DECORA, *Salv. et Godm.*

*Grey-chested Bird of Paradise*

*W. Hart del. et lith.*

*Munich. Dres. imp.*

## SPARGANURA GLYCERIA.

### Purple-tailed Comet.

*Cometes mossai*, Gould, Athen. 1853.

*Cometes? glyceria*, Gould, Mon. Troch. vol. iii. p. 104, 1861.

*Lesbia glyceria*, Bon. Rev. et Mag. de Zool. 1854, p. 252.

*Zodalia glyceria*, Muls. vol. iii. p. 250.—Elliot, Synopsis of the Trochilidæ, p. 150.

*Sparganura mossai*, Cab. & Heine, Mus. Hein. 1860, Th. iii. p. 52, note.

*Sparganura glyceria*, Sclat. & Salv. Nomencl. p. 80, 1873.

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BEING in possession of a female specimen of *Sparganura glyceria*, I think it advisable, both in the interests of the Trochilidist and of those who study the subject less scientifically, to figure it in this Supplement, and at the same time to associate with the drawing one of the male, back and front, which has already been depicted in the third volume of the 'Humming-birds.' Had it been possible, this female would have been figured thirty years ago.

Both Mr. Elliot, of North America, and M. Mulsant, of France, a short time ago completed Monographs of the Humming-birds. When giving the description of this bird, they both say, in their letterpress, that there was no female known. This they would not have said had they ever seen my beautiful specimen, which I now figure, and which has been lying beside the male for the last five or six years.

In comparing *Sparganura* (Humming-birds with broad tail-feathers and pointed throat-marks) with *Zodalia*, the differences between the two genera are apparent. The throat-mark in the latter is rounded, and the tail-feathers narrow; the rich purple colour of the back distinguishes the latter bird from all the species of this great family. A glance at the plates of *S. glyceria* and *Z. ortonii* will, I think, convince any one that the two species belong to distinct genera.

Before leaving the subject, I may state that I think it would be well for collectors to go to Popayan, or within a hundred miles of it, if they would supply those at home with the bird they so much admire.

The colouring of the male:—Head, back of the neck, wing-coverts, back, and tail-coverts deep shining green; wings purplish brown; chin and throat metallic light olive-green; sides of the neck and under surface buff, with a spot of deep shining green at the tip of each feather; tail dark reddish purple, passing into deep bluish green at the tip, except on the outer feathers, where the hue is so faint as to be scarcely perceptible; the outer feathers also have the basal three fourths of the shafts and the outer webs buffy white, the base of the shaft paler than the web; basal three fourths of the shaft of the next feathers also buffy white; under tail-coverts buff, with a brown mark in the centre near the tip.

*Female*. All the crown, back of the neck, and back green; throat, centre of the belly, and under tail-coverts buff; these minutely spotted with green; on the throat more numerous, and larger spottings on the sides, and no such green spots on the buff which covers the under tail-coverts (at least the green is scarcely perceptible); wings above purplish brown; tail coloured with the brightest purple on the upper part, some of the feathers, particularly the short middle ones, tipped with green; the undersides of the plumage precisely like those of the male; bill brown.

*Male*. Total length 6 inches, tail  $3\frac{1}{2}$ , wing  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , bill  $\frac{1}{2}$ , tarsi  $\frac{3}{4}$ ; toes and nails longer than the tarsus.

*Female*. Total length  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches, tail  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , wing  $2\frac{3}{4}$ , bill  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

The Plate represents the male in two positions, and a female, of the natural size.

*Habitat*. Popayan.



PARADISEA SANGUINEA, Shaw.

Red Bird of Paradise

## ZODALIA ORTONI.

### Quito Purpleback.

*Lesbia ortonii*, Lawr. Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York, 1869, vol. ix. p. 269.

*Zodalia ortonii*, Muls. Hist. Nat. Oiseaux-Mouches, tom. iii. p. 282.—Elliot, Syn. p. 149.

SINCE the closing of my 'Monograph of the Humming-birds,' twenty years ago, many fine Humming-birds have been discovered. The *Zodalia ortonii* is one of the gayest. The first and only known male was taken in the Quito valley, Ecuador, about 1869, and now graces the Museum of Vassar College, New York. It is a little surprising that the late Dr. Jameson never found this fine Humming-bird at Quito, although he lived at that place nearly all his life.

I consider that M. Mulsant is right in separating this species generically, and have often regretted that my friend Lawrence did not apply a new generic name to this very singular bird, particularly as he himself hinted at the end of his description, "perhaps the two species should be placed in a new genus."

The female of this species is the property of Mr. O. Salvin, and was, I believe, obtained from a collector who stated he brought it from Quito, close to the place where the male was procured. This female, unlike other Sylphs, has a short forked tail with the outer feathers rather pointed.

The narrow-tailed bird from Quito, *Zodalia ortonii*, and the broad-tailed from Popayan, *Cometes glyceria*, are said to be of the same form. This opinion I cannot agree with. The light luminous throat-mark of the birds which we now call *sparganura* runs down to a point; the tail-feather is very broad; the throat-mark of *ortonii* is of a richer green, and similar in shape to that of *Lesbia Gouldii*.

I will now give a part of Mr. Lawrence's description of this fine bird:—"In both *glyceria* and *ortonii* the tail is shorter than in members of *Cometes* or *Lesbia*. The bill is like that of *Lesbia*. Perhaps the two species should be placed in a new genus. The upper colouring of *ortonii* is somewhat like that of *Ramphomicron microrhynchus*, but is of a lighter shade and less shining. In the under plumage it resembles *L. amaryllis*; but the breast is of a darker green, more uniform in colour, as the buff bases and edges of the feathers are less apparent. The gorgets of *amaryllis* and *ortonii* are much alike in colour and extent.

"*Male*. Entire upper plumage and wing-coverts of a rich glossy purple, the concealed bases of the feathers are green; upper tail-coverts similar in colour to the back, but marked centrally between the purple and green with crimson; the tail-feathers are brownish black, except the two central, which are green; the ends of the eight middle feathers are largely marked with a deep vinous bronzy crimson, most in extent on the short central feathers; the outer feather on each side ends with obscure bronzy green; the outer edge of the lateral feather is buff for three quarters of its length from the base, this colour occupying only about one third the width of the web; the under surface of the tail is steel-blue, bronzy at the ends of the feathers; the shafts of the two long lateral feathers are whitish at base for about half their length; wings brownish purple; the throat-gorget is of a brilliant metallic pale green; the sides of the neck, breast, upper part of abdomen, and sides are of a shining green; lower part of abdomen ashy buff; bill and feet black."

Mr. Salvin's female, which he has lent to me, has the crown, nape, shoulders, and all the feathers of the rump green; the centre of the throat and middle of the underside are most minutely speckled, almost solid on the flanks; under tail-coverts buff, a very little greenish white on the underside of the tarsus. The tail is very attractively coloured for a female bird; three or four of the blue feathers are tipped with green. For myself I am thankful for the loan of both sexes, neither of which I possess.

*Male*. Total length  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches, wing  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , tail  $3\frac{1}{8}$ .

*Female*. Total length  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches, wing  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , tail  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , bill  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

The accompanying Plate represents two males in different positions and a female, all of the natural size.

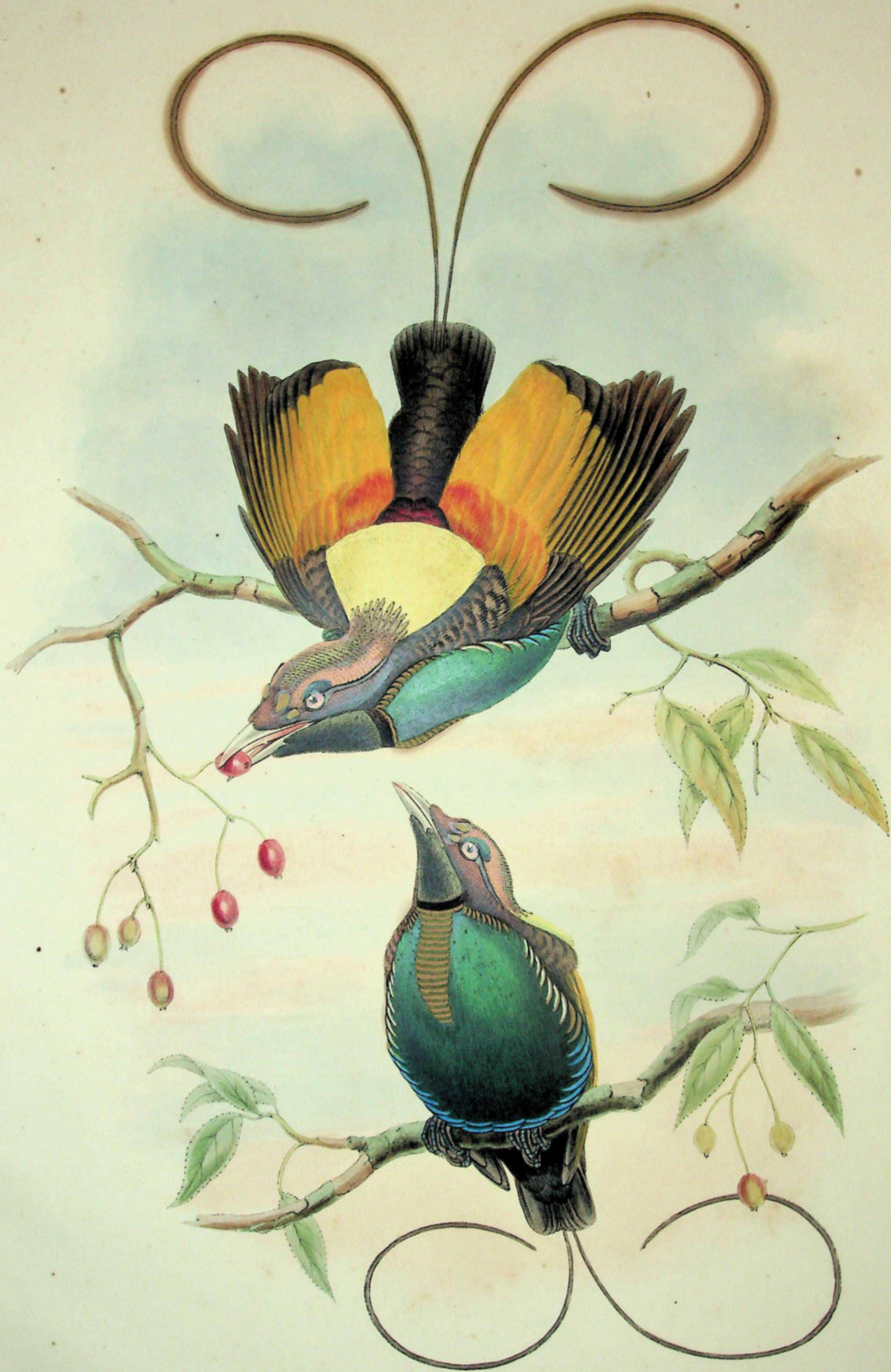


PARADISEA INTERMEDIA, De Vis.

De Vis's Bird of Paradise

W. Hart del. et lith.

Mintern. Bros. imp.



DIPHYLLODES CHRYSOPTERA, Gould.

J. Gould & W. Hart del. et lith.

Golden-winged Bird of Paradise

Walter imp.

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