

INTRODUCTION.

AT the commencement of the Introduction to the first edition I stated that, in selecting the family of Trogons as the subject of my second Monograph, I was influenced by the full conviction, not only that it was one fraught with interest, but that much was left buried in obscurity, which when brought to light would materially tend to the advancement of ornithology. That my language was justified has been amply proved during the course of nearly forty years which have elapsed since those words were written; for instead of the *thirty-four* different kinds then figured, we are now acquainted with *forty-six* species of Trogons, *thirty-three* of them being American, *eleven* Indian and Indo-Malayan, and *two* African.

As their general structure and their habits sufficiently indicate, the Trogons belong to the fissirostral tribe of the Insectores. Greatly insectivorous, they seize the flitting insect from the leaves of trees, which their wide gape enables them to do with facility; while their feeble tarsi and feet are such as to qualify them merely for resting on the branches as a post of observation whence to mark their prey, and to which, having given chase, to return. As in all other groups, however, we shall find modifications of the type, constituting the ground of generic or subgeneric divisions.

“The Trogons may dispute the palm of beauty with the Humming-birds. Their plumage in certain parts shines with metallic brilliancy, and exhibits all the colours of the rainbow. On other parts the tints, though opaque, are not less rich and splendid; but a very short neck, feet disproportioned to their figure and bulk, and a long and broad tail injure the harmony of their form, and give them a heavy port and aspect. Their