only a single species has yet been discovered. It is in South America, however, that we find the greatest number of species, and those of the most exquisite plumage: nor is this all; for it will be further observed that, in accordance with the great geographical distribution thus pointed out, there exist certain characters common to the species inhabiting each region, which, although not very apparent to the unpractised eye, constitute the basis of generic subdivisions, and doubtless have an influence upon their habits and manners. Between the American species, and those inhabiting India and Africa, we not only find this broad line of distinction, but discover moreover that the birds of each country are themselves naturally resolvable into certain minor groups, each possessing its peculiar characters, and each as different in habits as in form.

The beautiful species of the group to which the sub-generic title of *Calurus* has been applied, distinguished by a redundancy of flowing plumage, are not, as may be expected, so well fitted for flight, or for taking their prey on the wing, as are the more closely-plumed species to which the generic name of *Trogon* is now restricted; accordingly Mr. Natterer informs me that the gorgeous birds of the former group tenant the topmost branches of the loftiest forest trees, clinging beneath them like Parrots, and feeding more exclusively on fruits and berries; while on the other hand, Mr. W. S. Mac Leay states that the singular Trogon inhabiting Cuba, (the only example of the sub-genus *Temnurus*) which approximates to the Woodpeckers in the more lengthened form of the bill, in the rigid character of the outer tail-feathers, and in the spotting of the wings, approaches these birds also in its habits, giving a preference to the holes of trees rather than to the branches, from the bark of which it procures the larvæ and various insects which constitute its food.

The habits of the Old World species are unfortunately much less known than those of their American relatives. From the more robust form of their bill and their wide gape, I am inclined to suspect that they feed even still more exclusively on insects than on fruits; independently, however, of the greater strength of the bill, the non-serration of the edges of the mandibles, and the half-denuded face, they may at all times be distinguished by the rich brown colouring of the backs of the males, and by the entire absence of bars across the outer tail-