"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 opake, 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 long attenuated feathers, with barbs disarranged and luxuriant, make them appear more bulky than they really are. These too are so feebly implanted, that they fall at the slightest agitation. Their skin is so delicate that it will tear at the slightest tension.

"These birds are solitary and extremely jealous of their freedom. They never frequent inhabited or open tracts. They delight in the silence of deserts, where they even fly the society of their consimilars. The interior of the thickest forests is their chosen abode for the entire year. They are sometimes seen on the summit of trees; but in general they prefer the centre, where they remain a portion of the day without descending to the ground, or even to the lower branches. Here they lie in ambush for the insects which pass within their reach, and seize them with address and dexterity. Their flight is lively, short, vertical and undulating. Though they thus conceal themselves in the thick foliage, it is not through distrust; for when they are in an open space, they may be approached so nearly as to be struck with a stick. They are rarely heard to utter any cries, except during the season of reproduction, and then their voice is strong, sonorous, monotonous, and melancholy. They have many cries, from the sound of one of which their name is derived.

"All those whose habits are known nestle in the holes of worm-eaten trees, which they enlarge with their bills, so as to form a comfortable and roomy residence. The number of eggs is from two to four, and the young are born totally naked; but their feathers begin to start two or three days after their birth.

"The occupation of the male during incubation consists in watching for the safety of his companion, bringing her food, and amusing her with a song, which, though we should call it insipid, is to her, without doubt, the expression of sensibility. Some of