

SELASPHORUS ARDENS, *Salvin.*

Salvin's Flame-bearer.

Selasphorus ardens, Salvin, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1870, p. 209.—Scl. & Salv. Nomencl. Av. Neotr. p. 84 (1873).—Muls. Hist. Nat. Oiseaux-Mouches, iv. p. 103 (1877).—Elliot, Synopsis of the Humming-Birds, p. 110 (1878).

THE species of the genus *Selasphorus*, as pointed out by Mr. Elliot, are distinguished by the colour of their throats; and in the present species and *S. platycercus* the throat has been characterized by him as "dark amethystine-red." *S. ardens* differs from *S. platycercus* in being smaller, and in having the flanks and abdomen dark green instead of grey. Mr. Salvin has given the following notes on the species —

"This species has the throat coloured just as in *S. platycercus*, which is in other respects a very different species. Its nearest allies, however, are *S. flammula* and *S. torridus*; but it differs from both in the coloration of the throat, and also in having the central tail-feathers black, edged with rufous instead of green: this latter distinction is more conspicuous when the tail is compared with that of *S. flammula*. The wholly black bill and the absence of the elongated gular feathers distinguish it from *S. torridus*. The male sent by Arcé is not in quite perfect plumage, but is so far satisfactory as to show a few faded feathers on the throat. These are bronzy, and quite different in colour from the gorget-feathers of either *S. flammula* or *S. torridus*."

The following complete description of the sexes has been borrowed from Mr. Elliot's work above alluded to:—

"*Male*. Upper parts dark bronzy green, lores and ear-coverts rufous, the latter mixed with black. Throat metallic amethystine-red. Breast, middle of abdomen, and under tail-coverts white, flanks dark green, which colour almost meets on the upper part of breast. Tail purplish-black, both webs of middle feathers and inner webs of lateral ones margined with rufous. Wings purplish brown. Bill black. Total length $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches, wing $1\frac{1}{2}$, tail $1\frac{1}{4}$, culmen $\frac{3}{8}$.

"*Female*. Upper parts bronzy green, margined with rufous on the sides of lower part of back and rump. Throat buffy white, spotted with brown. Breast white. Underparts buff. Middle tail-feathers bronzy green, lateral ones buff with a black bar across their central part. Bill black."

I am indebted to Messrs. Salvin and Godman for the loan of the pair of birds from which the figures in the Plate are taken.

SELASPHORUS FLAMMULA, *Salvin.*

Rosy-throated Flame-bearer.

Selasphorus flammula, Salvin, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1864, p. 586.—Scl. & Salv. Nomencl. Av. Neotr. p. 84 (1873).—Mulsant, Hist. Nat. Oiseaux-Mouches, iv. p. 99 (1877).—Elliot, Synopsis of the Humming-Birds, p. 110 (1878).

The throat in this species is of a metallic rosy-red colour, which renders it a conspicuous bird. Its habitat appears to be confined to Costa Rica and Veragua; and nothing seems to be known of its habits, which, however, are doubtless similar to those of the other *Selasphori*.

The descriptions of both sexes are here copied from Mr. Elliot's work above quoted:—

"*Male*. Upper parts shining grass-green. Throat metallic rose-red. Breast and middle of abdomen white.