

EUTOXERES HETERURA, *Gould.*

Ecuadorean Sickle-bill.

Eutoxeres heterura, Gould, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (4) i. p. 455 (1868).—Elliot, Synopsis of the Humming-Birds, p. 3 (1878).—Eudes-Deslongchamps, Annuaire Mus. d'Hist. Nat. Caen, i. p. 73 (1881).

Grypus heterura, Gray, Hand-list of Birds, i. p. 123, no. 1548 (1869).

THIS species is not very different from the Colombian *Eutoxeres aquila*, which it replaces in Ecuador; but the stripes on the breast seem to be always of a bright fulvous colour, instead of whitish as in the above-mentioned bird.

The following remarks are quoted from my original paper on these birds:—"I have for some time past had reason to believe that the Humming-birds of this highly singular form comprised more species than the two already described (*Eutoxeres aquila* and *E. Condamini*); but it is only of late that I have acquired sufficient materials to justify my arriving at any satisfactory conclusion on the subject. At this moment I have before me three specimens of the true *E. aquila* from New Granada, seven skins of a bird from the neighbourhood of Quito, which I consider to be distinct from that species, and three from Veragua, which differ slightly from both.

"*E. aquila* is the largest species of the genus, and is distinguished by the snow-white shafts of its tail-feathers, which doubtless show very conspicuously when the bird is on the wing and the tail widely spread; this character is found in every specimen I have examined, and, I believe, will prove constant. The Quitan bird, like some of the *Phaethornithes*, is extremely variable in its markings; for instance, the tail, in some specimens, has the tips of the feathers white for nearly half an inch from the tip, in others for a quarter, in others, again, for an eighth; and I possess one in which the white tipping is absent, all the feathers being of a uniform olive-grey; but in no instance that I have seen does the white extend down the shaft as in *E. aquila*. On comparing the seven Quitan specimens with the Bogotan birds, I find that the striæ on the breast are black and white in the former, and black and buff in the latter. I shall designate the Quitan bird *E. heterura*, with the following description:—

"Upper mandible wholly black, under mandible yellow for two thirds of its length from the base, the remainder olive-brown; crown of the head nearly black, each feather glossed with green at the tip; upper surface dull grass-green; tail olive-grey, in some instances tipped with sullied white; wings deep purplish black; under surface, from the throat to the vent, striated with black and buff, the buff becoming lighter on the centre of the abdomen; under tail-coverts brown, varied with black. Total length 5 inches, bill 1, wing $2\frac{1}{2}$, tail $2\frac{1}{4}$, tarsi $\frac{1}{4}$."