PREFACE.

It fell to my lot, on Mr. Gould's death, to complete the present work together with the others left unfinished at the time of his decease. The Plates for this "Supplement" were nearly all drawn during the lifetime of Mr. Gould; to these I have added certain others as representing species well worthy of illustration, the specimens having been lent to me by Mr. Osbert Salvin. It will be noticed that a large number of species are included in the present "Supplement" without the accompanying plates. Whether it was the intention of Mr. Gould to have enumerated these in the work I know not; but as he originally meant to complete the "Supplement" in *four* parts, I fancy that he would only have figured the most striking of the species described since the completion of the 'Monograph.' I have, however, endeavoured to include in this supplementary volume descriptions of all the species of Trochilidæ discovered since 1861, when the 'Monograph' was finished; and this course will, I trust, commend itself to ornithologists. My thanks are due to Messrs. Sotheran for allowing me thus to render the work as complete as possible, notwithstanding the pecuniary loss involved by such a proceeding.

It is scarcely necessary for me to record here my obligations to Mr. Elliot's admirable 'Synopsis of the Humming-Birds,' as the pages of this book reveal how much I have been indebted to his volume; and to Mr. Salvin I owe the deepest acknowledgment, for his advice in planning the present work and for having supervised the proofs of each Part.

R. BOWDLER SHARPE.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY),
SOUTH KENSINGTON,

March 1887.