CHLOROSTILBON AURICEPS, Gould.

Long-tailed Emerald.

Trochilus (——?) auriceps, Gould in Jard. Cont. to Orn. 1852, p. 137.

In placing this new and highly interesting species in the genus *Chlorostilbon*, I feel assured that I am assigning it to its natural position. A very regular gradation, with regard to the structure and form of the tail, occurs between the present bird and the other species intervening between it and the *C. prasimus* of Brazil, while in the form of the bill and in the glittering metallic colouring of the body they are as nearly alike as possible; and a still greater resemblance occurs in the females of all the species. It is a fact no less true than interesting, that the members of this genus from the countries lying northward of the Isthmus of Panama differ specifically from those found in Brazil and Columbia: and, as if to mark their separation still more strongly, they all possess a more or less forked tail, tipped or banded at the extremity of each feather with grey, a feature which is particularly conspicuous in *C. Caniveti* and the present species; the bifurcate form of the tail, too, appears to be carried to its maximum in the bird here represented, thereby rendering it of a particularly elegant and graceful contour.

The discovery of the *Chlorostilbon auriceps* is due to the researches of the late M. Floresi d'Areais, who obtained several examples of both sexes in Mexico, and which now grace my own collection; I regret to add, that the precise locality in which they were procured is unknown to me.

The male has the forehead and crown of the head of a glittering metallic golden hue; upper surface and wing-coverts golden-green; throat, and the whole of the under surface lustrous metallic green; wings purplish-brown; tail, which is deeply forked and longer than the body, purplish-black, all but the outer feather on each side obliquely tipped with greyish-green; bill reddish at the base, and black for the remainder of its length.

The female has the head, upper surface and flanks bronzy-green; wings purplish-brown; under surface dull grey; central tail-feathers shining green; the remainder, except the outer one on each side, green at the base, then black, and slightly tipped with grey; the outer feather on each side green at the base, then grey, next black, and lastly tipped with greyish-white.

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The Plate represents the birds of the size of life.