

## HELIOTHRIX PHAINOLÆMA, Gould.

### Green-throated Fairy.

*Heliothrix phainolæma*, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., part xxiii. p. 87.

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THIS is one of the most beautiful, and certainly the rarest species of the genus *Heliothrix*, a group distinguished by the wedge-shaped form of their bill, their lengthened wings, small feet, and delicate style of colouring. Its nearest ally is the *H. auriculatus*, from which, however, it is distinguished by the whole of the throat being of a resplendent metallic green. The localities inhabited by the two birds are widely different, the *H. auriculatus* being found in Southern Brazil, while the *H. phainolæma* frequents the distant country of the Upper Rio Negro, the district in which the splendid *Topaza pyra* is also found, together with many other fine species of which at present but little is known, owing to the difficulty of access to this *terra incognita*.

The male has the head, upper surface, upper tail-coverts, upper and under wing-coverts rich golden green, very brilliant on the head; wings purplish black; four central tail-feathers bluish black; lateral tail-feathers snowy white; below and behind the eye a lengthened mark of black, terminating in a violet-blue tuft; chin, throat, and sides of the neck rich luminous green; breast and under surface pure white; bill black; feet flesh-colour.

The female is very similar, but wants the blue ear-tufts and green neck-stripe, the absence of which causes the black ear-coverts to show very conspicuously; a purplish band crosses the lateral tail-feathers near their base.

The figures are of the natural size. The plant is a variety of the *Tillandsia bulbosa*.