

and a long time will probably elapse before we are made acquainted with the peculiar purpose for which its curiously-formed bill is adapted.

M. Bourcier considers that the *Ornismya avocetta* of M. Lesson is the young of this species; in which opinion I coincide; but I believe that the specimen from which M. Lesson's figure was taken had the tail of some other species surreptitiously appended to it instead of its own.

M. Bourcier informs me, that the *Avocettula recurvirostris* is found in Cayenne, that it is rare there, and that the chasseurs only meet with it in the interior of the great forests, where it lives isolated.

The male has the whole of the upper surface, abdomen, and under tail-coverts golden green; throat and breast shining emerald-green; down the centre of the abdomen a stripe of black; wings dark purplish black; thighs white; two centre tail-feathers greenish blue, the remainder coppery brown, margined on the basal half of the external web with bronzy green; under surface of all the tail-feathers rich, shining, fiery copper colour; bill and feet blackish brown.

At a younger age the colouring of the body and wings is very similar, but the tail is bronzy purple, tipped with white.

In another state, which may be that of the female or a young bird of the year, the centre of the throat and abdomen is brownish black, bounded on each side from the angle of the mouth with an irregular streak of white; the tail dark purple, glossed with green, and the lateral feathers, particularly the outer ones, largely tipped with white.

The figures represent a fully adult male and a female, or young bird of the year, of the size of life. The plant is the *Tweedia versicolor*.