

restlessness did not permit me to gratify my desire for a lengthened observation, and after vainly waiting for some time in the hope of its returning, I continued my walk under the high trees to another part of the grounds, where I was again gratified by seeing my little friend dart off from within a few feet of me : in this shady retreat it passed from shrub to shrub, now and then perching on some bare twig to rest in a state of quietude, or to preen its wings before again darting off to examine the flowers on the more lofty branches. The almost total absence of Humming-birds around Philadelphia proved to me that I was still too early for them, the lateness of the season of 1857 having retarded their movement, and the regularity of their arrival being evidently dependent upon the state of the trees and consequent supply of food ; I therefore determined to proceed farther south to Washington, where, in the gardens of the Capitol, I had the pleasure of meeting with them in great numbers : in lieu, then, of the single individual in Bartram's garden, I was now gratified by the sight of from fifty to sixty on a single tree, and had an ample opportunity of observing these living gems, and of noticing their extraordinary movements and aerial evolutions to my heart's content. They were more amicably disposed than they are usually said to be. Disporting round the reddish flowers of a species of chestnut termed Buck-eye, both males and females were busily engaged in examining the blossoms, ever and anon retiring to some shady branches for the purpose of rest or to plume themselves. To say that these birds, of which several hundreds were to be seen within the area of as many yards, were in this instance not amicably disposed towards each other, would be untrue ; a little brush now and then, and an occasional tilting-match between two males, certainly did occur, but the greater number were evidently too much occupied in the search for food to waste time in fighting. I suspect that the pugnacity of the males so graphically described by Wilson principally occurs during the breeding season, when their fury is said to have no bounds. My scientific friend Dr. Baird, who was with me at the time, will, I am sure, confirm what I have said with regard to the numbers seen on this occasion.

Having now observed the bird in a state of nature, my next object was to obtain living examples for more close examination, and through the kindness of Baron Osten-Sacken, the nephew of the great General, a member of the Russian diplomatic corps at Washington, and an excellent entomologist, a specimen was soon procured for me in one of the conservatories of the city, and great was my delight in taking possession of the little captive. A small insect gauze net, about six inches in diameter, distended by a light hoop, was soon manufactured for its reception, and, although sadly buffeted about, the bird, within an hour of its capture, readily took sugar and water from a spoon held in the hand : this boldness led me to hope that it would soon become familiarized with its little domicile. I accordingly suspended it from a button of my coat, and carried it about with me wherever I went, offering it every half-hour a small bottle filled with sugar and water, into which it thrust its long bill through the gauze bag, and pumped up the fluid through its more lengthened tubular tongue. In this way it travelled with me for two days across the Alleghany Mountains, and would doubtless have continued to do well, had I not, at the end of a dusty and tremendously jolting ride, given it a bath to free it from the dirt which had accumulated on its tail and wings during the journey, from the effects of which it sickened and died. In recording my obligations to Baron Osten-Sacken, it must not be supposed that I am unmindful of the attentions rendered me with the same object by every one at Washington, including His Excellency the President, our own minister, Lord Napier, Mr. Russell, and others.

A few days' travelling by way of Ohio and Lake Erie brought me to Canada. At the "Falls" the "Hummers" had but just arrived, and only a few males were to be seen ; at Toronto they were still fewer in number. At one P.M. on the 5th of June, when passing down the St. Lawrence, I observed a fine male cross the bows of the vessel from the southern to the northern shore near the Long Sault Rapid ; it was evidently migrating. In the garden of G. C. Tunstall, Esq., opposite St. Ann's Rapids, Bout-de-l'Île, near Montreal, rendered classical by Moore's well-known Canadian Boat-song, the Humming-birds on the 8th of June were very abundant, even flitting about the lilac trees which overshadowed the porch at the house where, Mrs. Tunstall informed me, Moore sat and composed his celebrated song ; and I feel that I should be wanting in courtesy were I not thus publicly to acknowledge my obligations to this kind lady for permission to shoot two of these little tenants of her garden, which, when informed they were required for a scientific purpose, she readily accorded ; but at the same time assured me that on no other account would she have allowed one of these little wanderers to be destroyed, for they were by her both cherished and beloved.

Having accomplished all that I could expect to do, during so short a visit, with regard to observing the *Trochilus Colubris* in a state of nature, a strong desire prompted me to attempt the bringing of living examples across the Atlantic ; and upon this desire becoming known to Sidney Augustus Schiefflin, Esq., of Madison Square, New York, that gentleman very obligingly presented me with a pair, male and female, then living in his house, in perfect health, in the finest state of plumage. My greatest anxiety was to get them past the Banks of Newfoundland in safety, where the thermometer frequently falls below the freezing-point. Through the kindness of Captain Shannon, who afforded me every facility, this was achieved, and they reached the shores of England ; one of them, however, unfortunately died as we came up the Channel ; the other reached London, and lived for two days at my house in Broad Street. During the voyage they were fed with syrup made of sugar and water, with the trifling addition of the yolk of an unboiled egg as a substitute for their animal food.