

OREOTROCHILUS MELANOGASTER, *Gould.*

Black-breasted Hill-star.

Oreotrochilus melanogaster, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., part xv. p. 10.—Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. i. p. 104, *Oreotrochilus*, sp. 5.—Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., p. 76, *Oreotrochilus*, sp. 6.—Reich. Aufz. der Col., p. 15.—Bonap. Rev. Zool. 1854, p. 250.

No species of this well-defined group of Humming-birds is so rare in the collections of Europe as the *Oreotrochilus melanogaster*: a circumstance which is due to the fact of the country of which it is a native being more unfrequently visited than those inhabited by the other species. Ecuador, as is well known, is the true habitat of the *O. Pichincha* and *O. Chimborazo*, both of which species are named after the volcanic mountains they respectively frequent; *O. Estelleæ* and *O. Adelaæ* are found in Bolivia; *O. leucopleurus* in Chili, and the present species in Peru. All these species inhabit countries of great elevation, and are mostly confined to very limited areas. The *Oreotrochili* may truly be considered to constitute one of the best defined genera of the great family of the *Trochilidæ*, and to rank among the finest of the Humming-birds. A splendid specimen of the *O. melanogaster* graces the collection of the late Mr. George Loddiges, and two are contained in my own: all of these were procured in Peru, but in what precise locality is unknown. The whole of them are males, and, so far as I am aware, no female has yet reached Europe.

All the upper surface olive-brown with a golden lustre, and washed with green on the upper tail-coverts; wings greyish brown with purple reflexions; throat rich lustrous grass-green; breast and abdomen rich deep bluish black; flanks rusty brown; tail green, with bronze reflexions; bill black; feet olive-black.

The figures are of the size of life. The plant is the *Fuchsia spectabilis*.