

PHAËTHORNIS FRATERCULUS, *Gould.*

Allied Hermit.

IN figuring this bird in the present monograph, I do not insist that it is a new species, or that it is by any means rare; on the contrary, scarcely a single collection arrives from Cayenne and the neighbouring countries which does not comprise examples of it. Still I cannot find that it has been described; and that it has not been is also the opinion of M. Bourcier, of Paris; and the only question in our minds is whether it can possibly be the female, or one or other sex of the *P. malaris* (*P. superciliosus* of this work). If this should ultimately prove to be the case, a similar disparity in the size of the sexes does not occur in any other species. Having said thus much, I leave the investigation of the subject to those ornithologists who may hereafter write on the subject, or to those who may have opportunities for observing the bird in a state of nature.

I ought to mention that, besides the great difference in size, the *P. fraterculus* differs in having a somewhat more curved bill than *P. malaris*.

Crown of the head greyish brown; upper surface and wing-coverts bronzy green; lower part of the back and upper tail-coverts paler and with a crescent of deep brown near the tip of each feather; above and below the eye a stripe of yellowish buff; the interspace, or ear-coverts and lores, brownish black; wings purplish brown; throat grey with a stripe of light buff down the centre; the under surface clouded in some specimens with grey; sides of the neck and under tail-coverts pale buffy white; tail-feathers glaucous green at the base, brownish black in the middle and tipped with an arrow-head-shaped mark of white; the apical half of the two middle feathers white; upper mandible and tip of the under mandible black, the remaining portion of the latter being yellowish or flesh-colour; feet yellowish brown.

The figures are of the size of life. The plant is the *Angræcum funale*.