

GLAUCIS FRASERI, *Gould.*

Fraser's Hermit.

Glaucis Ruckeri, Sclat. in Proc. of Zool. Soc., part xxviii. p. 296.

"MR. FRASER collected at Babahoyo, in Ecuador, specimens of a bird which both Dr. Sclater and myself considered to be identical with the *Glaucis Ruckeri*, but which, on a more minute comparison with specimens from Veragua, I find to be sufficiently different to entitle it to be regarded as distinct; I have therefore named it after its discoverer, as a just tribute to one who has played a good part in the furtherance of science. The *G. Fraseri* differs from *G. Ruckeri* in being rather larger in size, in having a smaller amount of rusty red on the chest, and in having a decidedly grey breast; in other respects the two birds are similar."

The foregoing paragraph appears in the Introduction, and I really have nothing to add to it respecting the history of this bird. In favour of its being distinct, I may remark that it is quite an exceptional case for a species to range over so many degrees of latitude as those between the country frequented by the *G. Ruckeri* and that of which the present bird is a native. Whether the *G. Ruckeri* and *G. Fraseri* will prove to be local varieties of one and the same species, time and a more intimate knowledge of the *Trochilidæ* inhabiting the western coast of America can alone determine; for the present they should, in my opinion, be regarded as two different species. Whether any variation occurs in the outward appearance of the sexes is entirely unknown; in all probability they will be precisely similar in the colouring of their plumage.

Mr. Fraser states that this species was "found on the edge of the virgin forest; always solitary; generally in dark and lonely places, and very restless."

All the upper surface and wing-coverts green, inclining to bronzy brown on the head; wings deep purplish brown; two centre tail-feathers green, deepening into black and tipped with white; the remainder white at the base and at the tip, the intermediate space being occupied by a broad zone of black; an obscure line of buffy white descends from the base of the bill; on each side behind the eye a greyish-white spot; throat blackish brown, succeeded by a spot of dull rusty red; breast and flanks deep olive-green mingled with grey; abdomen grey; under tail-coverts lustrous olive-green, some of them margined with buff; upper mandible black; lower mandible yellow, with a dark tip; legs and feet flesh-colour; irides hazel.

The figures are of the size of life. The plant is the *Cattleya maxima*.