cxiv

INTRODUCTION.

The Index to the specific names of Humming-Birds comprises every term of this kind with which I am acquainted. Among them are some which are not elsewhere mentioned in this Introduction; these are the specific appellations occurring in the works of the older and a few of the more modern authors, which I have found it quite impossible to ascertain to what birds they have been applied. It is but fair to state that the *Urolampra chloropogon* of Cabanis and Heine, and the *Chlorestes iolaimus* of Reichenbach, appear from the descriptions and figures to be good species; but, as I have not seen the typical examples, I am unable to speak positively respecting them; I shall, however, keep the subject of the Humming-Birds constantly before me, and, when desirable, place my remarks upon these, and any novelties that may occur, before the scientific world.

At page xvii I have stated that the Humming-Birds, like the Swifts, have ample wings and vast powers of flight. As this may appear contradictory to the remarks made on the wing-powers of Selasphorus rufus and Trochilus Colubris at page xiii, it will be as well to state, what I meant to convey is that their ample wings and bony structure is admirably adapted for sustaining them in the air for a considerable time, rather than for enabling them to take long flights from one country to another.