

humid districts bordering the River Rimac at Lima. It is seen in small troops composed of six or eight couples, which are constantly pursuing one another, and uttering a slight cry. It is very airy in its flight, and rarely permits any other Humming-Bird to remain in its neighbourhood, but wages a continual and terrible war with them.

The largest species of the luminous lilac-throated Peruvian Humming-Birds, the *R. Vespera*, constitutes the

**Genus RHODOPIS, Reichenb.,**

which, as the form differs from all the others, I have no other alternative, if I act with consistency, than to adopt. It has a deeply forked tail, the feathers of which are narrow and rigid, not soft and yielding as in the *T. Coræ*. I have never seen a second species of this particular form. The female, like that sex in many other allied genera, is destitute of brilliant colouring.

173. RHODOPIS VESPERA . . . . . Vol. III. Pl. 154.  
*Habitat.* Peru.

Not less beautiful in the colouring of their gorgets are the members of the

**Genus DORICHA, Reichenb.**

The *D. Elizæ*, the Guatemalan bird known as *enicura*, and the less-known Bahama species *D. Evelynæ* are all associated by me in this genus; and if the plates on which they are respectively figured be referred to, it will be seen how beautiful are the throat-markings of the males.

174. DORICHA ELIZÆ . . . . . Vol. III. Pl. 155.  
 Thaumastura Elizæ . . . . .  
*Thaumastura Elizæ*, Montes de Oca in Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad. 1860, p. 552.  
*Habitat.* Southern Mexico.

"This," says M. Montes de Oca, "is one of the rarest of the Mexican Humming-Birds. It is small, very beautiful, and flies with wonderful rapidity, moving its wings with such velocity that it is almost impossible to see them; and it might easily be mistaken for a large bee, from the buzzing sound produced by their incessant motion. In the vicinity of Jalapa it is called *Mirto de Colo de tiserá*, or the spear-tailed Myrtle-sucker. It is very shy, and differs in its habits and manners from all other species. It is on the wing very early in the morning; and I have never seen any of the few specimens that have come under my observation between the hours of seven or eight o'clock A.M. and five P.M., when they are again to be met with until dusk. When it has once been detected feeding at any particular spot, it is almost sure to be found there at the same hour for several days in succession. It feeds on the *Masapan* and *Tobaco* flowers, preferring, I think, the latter. It is also found and breeds at the Barrancas de Jico (or the Precipices of Jico), about twenty miles from Jalapa. The nest, which is very small, round, flat at the bottom, and neither so deep nor so thick at the base as those of most Humming-Birds, is covered on the outside with moss from stones, and lined with *tule*, or cat-tail silky floss."

175. DORICHA EVELYNÆ . . . . . Vol. III. Pl. 156.  
 Thaumastura Evelynæ . . . . .  
*Habitat.* Bahama Islands.

176. DORICHA ENICURA . . . . . Vol. III. Pl. 157.  
 Thaumastura enicura . . . . .  
*Habitat.* Guatemala.

"On no occasion," says Mr. Salvin, "were the males of this species observed about Dueñas during the months of February and March; indeed it was not until the month of May that both males and females were seen together, at which time the *Nopal* of the cochineal plantations being in full flower, great numbers of Humming-Birds, especially of this species, were in the habit of feeding from the blossoms of that cactus. The females during the winter months are common enough, and frequent the same places, and feed principally on the same trees as the *Cyanomyia cyanocephala*."—*Ibis*, vol. i. p. 129.

"Occasionally, when flying, the elongated tail-feathers are stretched to a considerable angle."—*Ibis*, vol. ii. p. 40.

Speaking of three nests of this species Mr. Salvin says:—"One of these was in a coffee-tree, and had two eggs. The other was most curiously placed in the cup-shaped top of a fruit of the *Nopal* (*Cactus cochinellifer*), the fastenings being dexterously wound round the clustering prickles, and thus retaining the whole structure most