

with at certain seasons; but whether it leaves the island, or retires to the interior, I am not at present prepared to say. It is seldom to be found in open sunshine: the mornings and evenings are its principal times for feeding, and its evolutions then are truly pleasing,—at one instant suspended immovable to the eye (although alternately showing the purest white and green), at the very top of our tallest bamboo, guava, or other tree, and at the next moment at the root, with two or three zigzags right and left, up and down, dipping either into the river or snapping a fly from the surface, and then disappearing. I think it probable that this bird feeds more upon winged insects than most of the others, which may account for its being seen so early in the calm mornings, retiring generally into the thick wild plantain bushes as soon as the sun begins to spread his rays upon them, and appearing again in the evening when he is going down, or when his rays cease to act upon their spot of pleasure. A female shot on the 19th of April contained an egg almost perfect.”—*Horeæ Zoologicae*, by Sir W. Jardine, Bt., in *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.* vol. xx. p. 373.

133. FLORISUGA ATRA . . . . . Vol. II. Pl. 115.  
*Lampornis niger*, Jard. Nat. Lib. Humming-Birds, vol. ii. p. 156.  
*Florisuga fusca*, Reichenb. Aufz. der Col. p. 14; Id. Troch. Enum. p. 12; Cab. et Hein. Mus. Hein. Theil iii. p. 29.  
*Habitat.* Eastern Brazil.

That all the Humming-Birds are not yet discovered we may very reasonably conjecture, and we may ask what will be our next novelty in this group of birds. This remark has suggested itself upon finding next in succession the singular little *Microchera albocoronata*. Although America has been discovered for more than 300 years, and collectors have been employed for the last fifty in searching for its treasures of various kinds, we had no knowledge of the existence of this bird until 1852, when Dr. J. K. Merritt shot three examples in the district of Belen in New Granada.

Genus MICROCHERA, *Gould.*

(μικρὸς, parvus, et χήρα, vidua.)

Generic characters.

*Male.*—Bill about the same length as the head, and straight; wings moderate; tail rather short and square; tarsi clothed; feet small; claws diminutive.

134. MICROCHERA ALBOCORONATA, *Gould* . . . . . Vol. II. Pl. 116.  
*Habitat.* The district of Belen in New Granada.

A considerable hiatus here occurs, which cannot at present be filled up, and we come to the elegant frill-necked Coquettes, the *Lophornithes*; and with these I commence the third volume.

They are among the most beautiful of the smaller members of the Trochilidæ, and are distinguished by the possession of lengthened ornamental plumes springing from the sides of the neck, which generally have a spangle of metallic lustre at the tip; they are further ornamented with beautiful lengthened crests, which are developed to a greater extent in some species than in others; in those in which the neck-plumes are the longest, the crests are least so, and *vice versâ*. They are spread over a great part of America, from Mexico along the Andes to Bolivia; they also occur in Brazil, the Guianas, and the Island of Trinidad.

Genus LOPHORNIS, *Less.*

135. LOPHORNIS ORNATUS . . . . . Vol. III. Pl. 117.  
*Habitat.* Northern Brazil, Guiana, and Trinidad.

Mr. W. Tucker informs me that in Trinidad this species “frequents the pastures and open places, and visits the flowers of all the small shrubs, but is particularly fond of those of the Ipecacuanha plant, and that it is very pugnacious, erecting its crest, throwing out its whiskers, and attacking every Humming-Bird that may pass within its range of vision.”

136. LOPHORNIS GOULDI . . . . . Vol. III. Pl. 118.  
*Habitat.* Northern Brazil.