

bill; *tail* slightly rounded, the feathers broad; *tarsi* clothed; *hind toe* shorter than the middle one; *head* and *breast* luminous.

Female.—Unadorned.

This genus comprises two species, both of which are natives of Central America, Mexico, and Southern California; they are somewhat diminutive in size, and possess the white mark behind the eye which occurs in most of the members of the genera of this section of the Trochilidæ.

73. HELIOPÆDICA MELANOTIS Vol. II. Pl. 64.

Trochilus leucocrotaphus, Shaw (Cabanis).

——— *cuculliger*, Licht. Preis-Verz. Mex. Thier. v. Deppe & Schiede (Sept. 1830), no. 29, 31.

Trochilus leucotis, Jard. Nat. Lib. Humming-Birds, vol. ii. p. 144.

Hylocharis leucotis, Gray & Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. i. p. 114, *Hylocharis*, sp. 28.

Heliopedica melanotis, Sclat. & Salv. Ibis, vol. i. p. 130.

Basilinna leucotis, Cab. et Hein. Mus. Hein. Theil iii. p. 45.

Trochilus lucidus, Shaw? Gen. Zool. vol. viii. p. 327.

Mellisuga lucida, Steph. Cont. of Shaw, Gen. Zool. vol. xiv. p. 247.

Sapphironia lucida, Sallé, Liste des Oiseaux; Sclat. Proc. Zool. Soc. part xxvi. p. 297, and part xxvii. p. 386.

Habitat. Guatemala and Mexico.

I observe that specimens from Guatemala are much smaller than those from Mexico; but as the colouring and disposition of the markings are precisely similar, I regard them as races only.

M. Sallé, in his 'List of the Birds of Mexico,' has assigned to one of them the name of *lucidus* of Shaw, believing it to be an earlier name for this bird than *melanotis* or *Arsenni*. This list has been followed by Dr. Sclater in his papers on the birds received by M. Sallé from and collected by M. Boucard in Oaxaca; but as Shaw's description of *lucidus*, as well as the country in which it is said to be found (Paraguay), does not accord with that of *melanotis*, that name must sink into a synonym.

"In some of the open savannahs scattered among the oak-forests of the Volcan de Fuego near Calderas, this species is not uncommon; I have also frequently met with it in some of the 'barrancos' of the same volcano. The white mark running from the eye and the deep coral-red of the bill show conspicuously in the living bird. It is a very shy species. A single specimen was shot near Coban, and another was brought to me from the mountains of S. Cruz, near San Gerónimo."—*Salvin in Ibis*, vol. ii. p. 271.

74. HELIOPÆDICA XANTUSI Vol. II. Pl. 65.

Habitat. Southern California.

If I have extolled the members of the genus *Cometes* as being among the most gorgeous birds in existence with regard to the colouring of their tails, in like manner I may pronounce the *Topazæ*, which now claim our notice, to be as remarkable for their lustrous throat-marks.

One of these beautiful birds, the *Topaza Pella*, is an inhabitant of Cayenne and the adjacent countries; while another, the *T. Pyra*, flies in the forests of the Upper Rio Negro.

Genus TOPAZA, *G. R. Gray*.

75. TOPAZA PELLA Vol. II. Pl. 66.

Trochilus paradiseus, Linn. Syst. Nat. tom. i. p. 189.

Lampornis pella, Jard. Nat. Lib. Humming-Birds, vol. ii. p. 155.

Habitat. Cayenne and the adjacent countries.

I find that specimens from Demerara have more richly-coloured throat-marks than those procured in Cayenne; there is also another variety distinguished by the great breadth of their lengthened tail-feathers; but these differences are not of specific importance.

76. TOPAZA PYRA Vol. II. Pl. 67.

Habitat. The Upper Rio Negro.

It is only at a comparatively recent date that we became acquainted with the birds for which I proposed the