

and destitute of indentation or fissure ; the ridges to which the pectoral muscles have their attachment large and prominent, the horizontal portion much narrowed anteriorly, consequently the junctions of the coracoids are very near together.

“Pelvis short, very broad ; os pubis long, curved upwards at the extremities, projecting far downwards, and posteriorly beyond the termination of the caudal vertebræ ; the ischiatic foramen small and linear ; femora placed far backwards ; coracoids short, very strong, their extremities much diverging ; os furcatum short, slightly arched near the extremities of the rami, which are far apart, furnished with only a small process on its approach to the sternum ; scapula flattened, long, broadest near the extremity ; humerus, radius, and ulna short, the metacarpal bones longer than either, the former furnished with ridges much elevated for the attachment of the pectoral muscles ; caudal and dorsal vertebræ with the transverse processes long and expanded ; cranium of moderate strength, the occipital portion indented with two furrows, which pass over the vertex, and in which the hyoids lie ; orbits large, divided by a complete bony septum ; the lacrymal bones large, causing an expansion of the bill near the nostrils.

“Number of cervical vertebræ 10, dorsal 6, sacral 9, caudal 5 ; total 30.

“Number of true ribs 5, false 4 ; total 9.”

Dr. Davy states that the blood-corpuscles of a recently-killed Humming-Bird, examined by him in Barbadoes, “were beautifully definite, regular and uniform. The disk very thin, perfectly flat ; the nucleus slightly raised ; and the two corresponding in outline. The corpuscles 1-2666th by 1-4000th of an inch, the long diameter of the nucleus very nearly 1-4000th. The blood was small in quantity, as I apprehend is the blood of birds generally, but not deficient in red corpuscles. I have found its temperature to be about 105 degrees.”

I have found it impossible to divide the Humming-Birds into more than two subfamilies—*Phaethornithinæ* and *Trochilinæ* ; for I find no such well-marked divisions among them as will enable me so to do : neither can I arrange them in anything like a continuous series ; so many gaps occur here and there, that one is almost led to the belief that many forms have either died out or have not yet been discovered ; consequently I am unable to commence with any one genus and arrange the remainder in accordance with their affinity. Whenever I have observed an apparent relationship between two or more genera, they have been placed in contiguity ; and the species which appear to be allied to each other are arranged in continuous succession. I do not consider one species more typical than another ; all are equally and beautifully adapted for the purposes they are intended to perform.

The following Synopsis will be found to contain a general view of the subject, and, as it also comprises many new synonyms and the additional information I have been able to obtain during the progress of the work, should always be consulted.

I shall now give the general characters by which the Trochilidæ are distinguished :—

Body small ; sternum very deep ; bill subulate, and generally longer than the head, straight, arched, or upcurved ; tongue composed of two lengthened cylindrical united tubes, capable of great protrusion, and bifid at the tip ; nostrils basal, linear, and covered by an operculum ; wings lengthened, pointed, the first