

found only in climates where this, its food, is perpetually renewed.

It is in the hottest countries of the new world that are found all the different species of humming birds. They are very numerous, and appear to be confined between the tropics, for those who in summer advance into the temperate zones make only a short stay there. They seem to follow the sun, to advance and to retire with it, and to fly upon the wings of the zephyrs in the train of an eternal spring.

The Indians, struck with the lustre and the sparkling beauty of the colours of these birds, called them *rays or hairs of the sun*. The Spaniards called them *tomineos*, a word expressive of their extreme minuteness; they weigh only 12 grains. We shall here mention some of the most remarkable species and varieties. There have been many discovered since the period when Buffon wrote their history, and we shall here notice some, according to their degrees of size, beginning with the smallest, as Buffon has done.