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THE ASH-COLOURED COLIBRI\*.

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IT is only the under parts of this bird that are ash-coloured; the upper, as well as the middle quill feathers of the tail, are ornamented with that rich mixture of green and gold, that resplendent cloathing which nature has so prodigally bestowed upon all the individuals

\* This name is derived from the Caribee language, and is used by Buffon to designate a second sort of humming birds; Marcgrave, however, does not distinguish between the colibri and the humming bird. What, in fact, has been said of the latter, is precisely true of the former; the colibri has the same manners, the same beauty of plumage, the same agility, the same grace, the same manner of building its nest, and the same rapidity of flight; the only difference between the two species is, that the beak of the colibri is regular and slender, slightly swollen at the end, and not straight as in the humming bird, but curved in its whole length; it is also longer. The slender and airy form of the colibri too, appears to be more elongated than that of the humming bird; they are also in general larger; yet there are colibris smaller than the smallest humming bird. All naturalists attribute to both these species precisely the same manner of living. *Translator.*