NATURAL HISTORY

THE SPOTTED-BELLY COLIBRI.

IT is upon the assertion and judgment of Audebert that we make a distinct species of this bird, though it is not easy to discover in it any thing which might entitle it to be placed higher than a variety of some of those already described. Audebert himself confesses that the plumage of this bird, which is not very various nor very beautiful, seems to indicate a female or a young individual; but as it is not easy to determine what species it belongs to, he rather prefers to consider it as a distinct one, until further observation shall clearly point out its true classification. Thus circumstanced, there are no means of deviating from the plan of Audebert, as nothing is known of the bird but what he himself has communicated.

At first sight, this bird appears to be the same as the *zitzil* or *spotted colibri*: but the zitzil, in its total length, is nearly six inches, and this one is not more than four from

264