

its present denomination, though some naturalists, Gmelin for example, have classed it under the appellation of the *small colibri*. But Buffon had already employed this epithet to designate a different species, and it became therefore expedient to adopt such a name as might convey an idea of the bird without, at the same time, confounding it with any other. It may here also be observed, that Gmelin has used the term *variegated colibri* to denote a small bird of South America, which he ranks among the colibris, though it certainly does not belong to this genus, for it has twelve quill feathers in the tail, whereas the colibris, and those that are specifically called humming birds (*oiseaux mouches*) have only ten. It is the same with two other birds which Gmelin has improperly placed among the colibris; the first has the shape of a sparrow; and the second, which is as large as the house swallow, is found at the Cape of Good Hope, where, as is well known, the humming bird does not exist; neither is it to be met with in any part of the old continent.