

Werk

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The Humming Birds.

Numb. XLIX.

THE Long-Tail-Humming Bird is the least of all the Species of this Kind of Birds, of which Naturalists reckon nine different Sorts, and the least that we know of found upon our Globe; its Bill is a little more than an Inch long, of a yellowish Colour, the Pupil of the Eye black, the Irides yellow, the top of the Head and Back of a dusky green inclining to a blew, with dark Shades; the Throat, Breast and Belly of a beautiful green, the Edges of the Feathers of a beautiful yellow intermixt with gold, the Wings of a dusky red, or copper Colour, with a Mixture of gold; the Feathers of its Tail were of the same Mixture of the Wings, only darker; these Birds move their Wings with that swiftness as hardly to be discerned by the Eye, darting themselves here and there in a Moment; it will also poise itself by the help of its Wings for a long space of time in the Air, as if it rested and stirred not, and to being on the Wing, suck the Flowers with its Bill, for it lights not upon them, which I have observed them to do many times in *Jamaica*; our *Bee moth* imitates the Actions of this Bird the most of any thing in Nature by its swift flying, darting and hovering on the Wing when it sucks the Flowers.

This Bird I had by the Name of the *Mango* Bird, which I believe to be an imposed Name: It is one of the Humming Birds; the Head, Back and Wings were a mixture of copper Colour, red and gold interchangeably mixt, very beautiful to behold; the Breast, Belly and Thighs were a velvet black intermixt with a shining green; the Tail is a little more than an Inch long; the Feathers of a mixt Colour, of blew, red and green; the Bill and Legs are of a blewish Colour. In the year 1701, when I was at *Jamaica*, I took one of these Birds in the dusk of the Evening with her Nest, which was built with Cotton in the Branches of the Physick-nut Trees growing in that Island, in which was two small white round Eggs as big as Peas; the long tail'd Bird I copied from the natural Bird at *Salter's Coffee-House* at *Chelsea*.