

cut just before the tree flowers, is excellent to eat; the developing leaf buds being quite white, and tasting somewhat like a fresh filbert. It seemed more delicate than the shoot of the Coconut. The guide knew where there was a tree remaining in the woods not far above sea level, and it was at once inspected in the hopes that it might be found in flower. As it was not, it was cut down for eating, for the guide was only waiting to let it develop further before felling it for that purpose himself. A few seedling Palms grew near by. Palms of the same genus occur in the tropical Andes.

Most remarkable in appearance amongst composite endemic trees are the species of the genus *Dendroseris*, allied to the Chicory. The specimens seen in flower were large straggling shrubs rather than trees, but with thick woody stems and branches from 10 to 15 feet in height. The leaves are very like those of a dandelion in appearance, and the stem, which, when split open, has a curiously jointed pith, has just the smell of a dandelion-root, and would, no doubt, yield chicory. It pours out, like the dandelion and allied plants, a milky juice when cut.

Hovering over the flowering bushes and trees, were everywhere to be seen two species of Humming Bird, one of which (*Eustephanus fernandensis*) is peculiar to the island, whilst the other (*Eustephanus galeritus*), belonging to the same genus, occurs also on the mainland. A further closely allied but peculiar species occurs in Mas-a-fuera. In the species peculiar to the island of Juan Fernandez the male is very different in plumage from the female, being of a chocolate colour, with an iridescent golden-brown patch on the head, whilst the female is green. So different are the two sexes that they were formerly supposed to represent two distinct species, as has happened in the case of so many other birds. This endemic humming bird seemed more abundant than the continental one.

In skinning some of the birds killed, it was noticed that the feathers at the base of the bill and on the front of the head were clogged and coloured yellow with pollen. The birds, no doubt, in common with other species of humming birds, and other flower-frequenting birds, such as the Myzomelidæ, are active agents in the fertilization of plants. Pollen was noticed attached in a similar manner to the head of a bird at Cape York. Mr. Wallace concludes that the presence of these birds, as fertilizers, accounts for the abundance of conspicuous flowers in Juan Fernandez.¹ Ten species of land and fresh-water Mollusca were found by the Expedition, of which only one, *Helix (Stephanoda) selkirki*, is new to science.²

The flesh of the wild goats of the island is most excellent eating, no doubt because of the abundance of food; in some parts of the island, especially to the southwest, there are open stretches covered with long grass. Pigeons (*Columba ænas*), which are said to have been imported into the island, are common, and feed on the hillsides in flocks.

¹ A. R. Wallace, *Tropical Nature*, pp. 270, 271, London, 1878.

² E. A. Smith, *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, p. 279, 1884.