

white flowers, and large patches of a small species of Dock (*Rumex*) in full flower showed out red amongst the general green, whilst a white-flowered Iris, growing socially, formed well-marked patches of white. A tall Bignoniaceous Shrub, which was very common, was covered with dark blue tubular flowers.

Hovering over the flowering bushes and trees, were everywhere to be seen two species of Humming-Birds; one of which (*Eustephanus fernandensis*) is peculiar to the island, whilst the other (*E. galeritus*) of the same genus occurs also on the main land. A further closely allied but peculiar species occurs in the island named by the Spaniards "Mas-afuera," or, "farther out," because it lies 90 miles to the westward of Juan Fernandez and so much farther from the Chilian coast.

The Humming-Birds were extremely abundant, hovering in every bush. 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. Any number of specimens might have been shot.

In skinning some of the birds which I killed, I 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. I noticed, as has been already mentioned, pollen attached in a similar manner to 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.

There are very few insects in the island, according to the observations of Mr. E. C. Reed, and only one very minute species of Bee. Flies, of which there are 20 species, form the most prominent feature of the entomology of the island.† Some fertilizers, either insects or birds, must act on a very comprehensive and effectual scale all over the island, as follows from the abundance of fruit yielded by various introduced plants.

Strawberries, Cherries, Peaches, Apples, and Figs bear well; Strawberries and Peaches at all events very abundantly. The

* See p. 305.

† A. R. Wallace, "Tropical Nature," p. 270, 271.