

Wild Peaches are spreading everywhere. These, the Cherries and the Apples are possibly fertilized by the birds, but one would hardly suppose that the Strawberries would be also thus pollenized: though at a height of 9,000 feet in the Andes, I have watched Humming-Birds, possibly the same species as that at Juan Fernandez, hovering over the low mountain flowers, quite close to the ground, where nothing like a bush was growing.

It would be very interesting, if it proved to be the case, that Humming-Birds have in this distant island adapted themselves to the fertilization of our common garden fruits. Besides the fruit trees, there are many introduced plants with well-developed flowers which thrive in the island; a Thistle is very abundant and luxuriant, as if eager to remind travellers to what race the world owes the immortal Selkirk, and a Wild Turnip is rapidly spreading. Possibly the abundant flies take some share in the fertilizing work.

It must be remembered, with regard to insular floras, that a plant which had developed showy flowers to attract certain insects on some main land or other place where insects were abundant, might, when transferred to an island devoid of insects suitable to its requirements, nevertheless retain its gaudy flowers little or not at all impaired, for an indefinite period, just as animals which have taken to deep-sea life have some of them retained their colours, though living in the dark.*

Selkirk's Monument is placed on the crest of a short sharp ridge in a gap in the mountains at a height of about 1,800 feet above the sea. From this, a steep descent leads down on either side to the shore. Here Selkirk sat and watched the sea on both sides of the island in long-deferred hope of sighting a sail.

Here we rested for some time, enjoying the view. Juan Fernandez is only ten miles in length, and 20 square miles in area, and from this elevated point nearly the whole extent of the island could be overlooked. Yet this tiny spot of land contains birds, land shells, trees, and ferns which occur nowhere else in the vast expanse of the universe, but here or in the neighbouring Mas-afuera. One could almost count the number of trees of the endemic Palm (*Ceroxylon australe*) and estimate

* See A. R. Wallace, "Tropical Nature," p. 274. London, 1878. Mr. Darwin, "Origin of Species," 6th edition, p. 349, refers to the similar survival of the hooks of hooked seeds in islands where there are no mammals to the fur or wool of which they could cling. Some hooked seeds may, however, surely also be adapted to hang in the feathers of birds, as those of the *Uncinia* and *Acæna* of the Southern Islands, possibly, for example, are adapted to those of the Albatross.