NEOCHLOE.—HYLOPHILUS.

NEOCHLOE.

Neochloe, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1857, p. 213.  (Type N. brevipennis, Sel.)

Mr. Sclater proposed this genus for the peculiar South-Mexican species which at present is its sole occupant. The form of the wings and tail are its chief distinguishing characters. The former are very rounded, the second primary being much shorter than the secondaries, and the third primary only about equalling them; the tail is about the same length as the wings, and also rounded. The bill is slender, but hardly more so than in V. huttoni; and the feet and legs resemble those of Vireo. The coloration is peculiar, and quite different from that of any other member of the allied genera.

1. Neochloe brevipennis.  (Tab. XIII. fig. 2.)


Cinerexus, dorso marino lavato; loris nigris, capite summo, alarum et caudae marginibus oleagino-viridibus; campiterio alari flavo; mento, abdomen medio et crasso albis; rostro nigricante mandibula basi cornea, pedibus nigranti-plumbeis. Long. tota 4-7, alae 2-13, caudae 2-1, rostri a rictu 5-5, tarsi 0-8. (Descr. exempl. ex Jalapa, Mexico. Mus. nostr.)

Hab. Mexico, Orizaba (Botteri 1,2, Sumichrast 3), Jalapa (de Oca).

This seems to be one of the rarest of Mexican birds, as at present we only know of three specimens in collections. The type, which was obtained by Señor Matteo Botteri near Orizaba on the 8th October 1856, is now in the British Museum; another is in the national collection at Washington, and was also received from the same naturalist. The third, which we now figure, is in our own collection, and formed part of a series of bird-skins sent to this country some years ago by Don R. Montes de Oca, the well-known naturalist of Jalapa. Prof. Sumichrast, who worked so long in the State of Vera Cruz, never met with it himself, but includes it in his paper on the birds of that State on Botteri’s authority. Nothing whatever is recorded of its habits.

HYLOPHILUS.

Hylophilus, Temminck, Pl. Col. sub tab. 173 (1823). Types H. thoracicus and pacilolitis.


This genus contains about a score of species, all very similar in form, and differing from one another by no very marked characters of colour. They are distributed throughout Tropical America, from Southern Mexico to Brazil, none, however, being found in the West-India Islands, except Trinidad and Tobago. North of the Isthmus of Panama four species occur, all of which are found in the State of Panama itself, two spreading thence to Southern Mexico. Guiana seems to be the metropolis of the genus, where no less than six species have been discovered.