PHAINOPEPLA.—PHAINOPTILA. 221

observers; and the fullest summary of their notes is given by Dr. Coues in his 'Birds the Colorado Valley.'

Its food consists of insects and fruits, chiefly the berries of different species of mistletoe.

The nest is described as a shallow structure, placed on a horizontal branch in a low tree; it measures about four inches across, and is composed of fine sticks, fibres of plants, and lined with a little cottonwood down and a stray feather. The number of eggs in a nest does not exceed two. These are of a ground-colour varying from greenish white to lavender and greyish white, and are spotted all over with different shades of brown. The spots are small, and most thickly scattered about the larger end of the egg.

Lichtenstein's unpublished title, *Ptilogonus aterrima*, belongs to this species, as the specimens in the Berlin Museum testify. These latter were obtained by Deppe at Cimapan, and are probably the first examples sent to Europe. According to Bonaparte², Lesson gave it the name of *Lepturus galeatus* in 1838¹³; but we have been unable to find any reference to it in Lesson's writings.

PHAINOPTILA.


The wings in the single species of this genus are rounded, the proportional lengths of the primaries being much as in *Ptilogonus*; there is a long first primary, the second being about twice its length; the fourth and fifth are about equal and the longest in the wing; the bill is weak and narrow at the gape, and considerably depressed; the nostrils are open, and the rictal bristles short; the tarsi are longer and stouter than in any of the preceding genera, and in having a single shield in front resemble the tarsi of a normal Thrush.

On the whole, this genus seems best placed here in the family Ampelidæ, at least for the present, and until an examination of more of its structure than is represented by a skin has been undertaken.

*Phainoptila* is a monotypic genus, its single species being found in the mountains of Costa Rica.

1. *Phainoptila melanoxantha*. (Tab. XIV.)


*Nitens nigra*, pectore et abdominis lateribus cum crasso olivaceis, ventre medio ardesiaco; hypochondriis et dorso postico luteis; rostro et pedibus nigerrimis. Long. tota 9·0, alæ 4·0, cauda 3·5, rostri a rictu 0·9, tarsi 1·0. (Descr. maris ex San Francisco, Costa Rica. Mus. nostr.)

*Femina obscure olivacea, capite summo nigro, gutture et abdomine medio ardesiacis, pectore et abdominis lateribus olivaceis, hypochondriis luteis, rostro et pedibus nigris. (Descr. femeæ ex Irazu, Costa Rica. Mus. nostr.)