

# Animate creation Volume 3; popular edition of "Our living world," a natural history

John George Wood

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This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1898 Excerpt: ...that it was actually 'playing 'possum'--feigning to be dead most skilfully. It lay on my open palm motionless for some minutes, during which I watched it in breathless curiosity. I saw it gradually open its bright little eyes to peep whether the way was clear, and then close them slowly as it caught my eye upon it. But when the manufactured nectar came, and a drop was touched upon the point of its bill, it came to life very suddenly; and in a moment was on its legs, drinking with eager gusto of the refreshing draught from a silver tea-spoon. When sated, it refused to take any more, and sat perched with the coolest self-composure on my finger, and plumed itself quite as artistically as if on its favorite spray. I was enchanted with the bold innocent confidence with which it turned up its keen black eyes to survey us, as much as to say, 'Well, good folks! who are you?" Another species belonging to this genus is well worthy of notice, on account of its beauty and interesting habits. This is the Long-tailed Humming-bird of Jamaica (Trochilus polytmus), one of the species which do not migrate, but remain in one locality throughout the year. It is remarkable for its two long tailfeathers. The upper parts of this beautiful bird are green, glossed with gold, the wings are purplebrown, and the tail black, with a steel-blue reflection. The long streaming feathers of the tail are the pair next to the exterior feathers, and when the bird is in a state of repose they 164 THE LONG-TAILED HUMMING-BIRD. cross each other like the blades of scissors. The throat, breast, and whole of the lower parts are glowing emerald green, except the under tail-coverts, which are purple-black. The top of the head and nape of the neck are velvet black, and the feathers of the head ar...

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