



Flying Jewel Fade-out

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During pandem-onium,
names of old friends echo
call quick to verify they remain
among the visible.
Some, still on the map
but fading out of likeliness.

Meanwhile,
hummers and salvias,
that co-evolutionary duo
together again - and again
throughout the Americas -
yet threatened with shrinking habitat

Delectable details recorded
of various *Joyas voladores* - flying jewels:

last seen last century,
Godin's Turquoise-throated Puff-leg:
“mostly green with blue undertail coverts and white powder-puffs of downy feathers on the legs,
and the male has a bluish-purple throat patch”

Recently named, already endangered,
blue-throated hill-stars of Andean cloud forests
Rile/Jile – An International Peer
Reviewed Journal

USA, v. 9, n. 1, p.257-259, Mar-Abr, 2022

Colibrí del Chimborazo

their names...

If you left behind no nametag
or little else
who will remember your nickname?
was it

jazz crazed
lead from behind
walked life lightly
knew a thing or two
dressed to bamboozle
helpful when you called her
never home
?

Among hummers,
the names of the endangered ones,
roll over in your mouth:

Coeligena orina
Dusky Starfront-let

Colibrí de vientre de zafiro
Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird

Calzadito Admirable

Colorful Puff-leg

that one - so far -

still on the map

Notes

An earlier version was published in *BlazeVox*, fall 2020.

28 species of hummers have disappeared as of 2021 – roughly 8% of the species.