



## 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

*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.