PARADOXORNIS FLAVIROSTRIS, Gould.

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Paradoxornis.

Paradoxornis flavirostris, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc. pt. iv. p. 17.—Ib. Mag. of Zool. and Bot. vol. i. p. 62.—Ib. Icones Avium.—Horsf. and M'Clell. Proc. of Zool. Soc. part vii. p. 164.—Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 389, Paradoxornis, sp. 1.—Blyth, Journ. Asiat. Soc. Beng. vol. xiv. p. 578.—Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av. p. 500, Paradoxornis, sp. 1.—Moore, Cat. Birds in Mus. East Ind. Comp.

Bathyrhynchus brevirostris, M'Clell. Quart. Journ. Calcutta Med. and Phys. Soc. 1837.—Ib. Ind. Rev. 1838, p. 513, with a figure.

Perhaps there is no one of the smaller Insessorial birds which has excited more interest among ornithologists than the present very singular species, which I had the pleasure of first making known to science in the year 1836; nothing was then known respecting its history, and we are still uninformed as to its habits and economy, or for what purpose its remarkably formed bill is especially adapted. It is a species of great rarity, so much so, indeed, that I know of no continental collection which is graced by a specimen; our National Museum, however, as well as those of the Honourable East India Company and the Zoological Society, all contain examples. The sexes appear to offer little external difference either in size or colour. Mr. Hodgson has sent specimens to the British Museum from Nepaul, and Mr. McClelland to that of the East India Company from Assam; these countries therefore may be considered to constitute its true habitat.

Crown of the head and back of the neck dull rufous; upper surface, wings and tail sandy brown; face and throat white, mottled with black; ear-coverts jet-black; under surface pale sandy brown, with a large blotch of black on the breast immediately below the mottled feathers of the throat; bill rich orange-yellow; tarsi and feet olive-green.

The figures are of the natural size.