Genus PARADOXORNIS, Gould.

CHARACTERES GENERICI.

Rostrum altitudine longitudinem superans, ad basin vibrissis instructum: mandibulâ superiore valdè compressâ; culmine acuto, valdè arcuato; tomio edentulo, apicem versus valdè incurvo, ad basin producto: mandibulâ inferiore ad basin latâ, robustâ; tomio emarginato. Nares parvæ, rotundatæ, pone rostrum sitæ. Alæ breves, rotundatæ; remigibus quartâ, quintâ, et sextâ longioribus. Cauda mediocris, gradata. Tarsi robusti, læves. Pedes magni, subtùs lati: digitis magnis; halluce ungueque postico maximis. Ptilosis ampla, laxa.

PARADOXORNIS FLAVIROSTRIS, Gould.

Yellow-billed Paradoxornis.

Par. arenaceo-brunneus, subtùs pallidior; capite nuchâque rufo-brunneis; auribus partim aterrimis; facie guttureque albis nigro variis, pectore nigro; rostris splendidè aurantiaco-flavis; pedibus cœrulescentibus.

Long. tot. 8 unc.; rostri, ½; alæ, 3½; caudæ, 4½; tarsi, 1¼.

Crown of the head, and back of the neck rich rufous brown; all the upper surface, wings, and tail sandy brown; face and throat white, mottled with black; part of the ear-coverts jet black; upper part of the chest greyish white clouded with black; under surface pale sandy brown; bill rich orange yellow; tarsi and feet bluish.

Paradoxornis flavirostris, Gould, in Proc. of Zool. Soc. Part IV. 1836. p. 17; and Magazine of Zool. and Bot. vol. 1. p. 62.

In the year 1836 I procured a single example of this anomalous bird, together with the Eurylaimus Dalhousiæ, and several other rare Himalayan species of a person who was not aware of the precise locality they were from. I believe that my specimen, which has been since added to the collection of the Zoological Society, is quite unique, and that no other bird even approaching it in form has yet been discovered: in its soft lax plumage, rounded wing, and tail, and powerful foot and tarsi, it offers a striking resemblance to the members of the genus Pomatorhinus; its arched and compressed bill, however, at once distinguishes it from that form: the situation of the nostrils, which are behind the bill, together with the stiff hairs which spring from the base of this organ, also serve to distinguish it from the Pomatorhini; but a knowledge of its habits and the examination of other allied species, which in all probability are yet to be discovered, will alone enable the ornithologist to determine its real situation in the natural system.

The figures are of the natural size.