

SELENIDERA MACULIROSTRIS.

Spotted-billed Toucanet.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Mas.—*Sel. mandibulâ superiore ad latera maculis transversis nigris irregulariter fasciatâ.*

Male.—Crown of the head, nape, throat and chest deep shining black; ear-coverts deep orange, crossing obliquely a tuft of pale yellow; crescentic mark at the nape pale yellow; back, wings and upper tail-coverts rich olive-green; primaries brown, margined externally with olive; tail dark olive-green, inclining to brown, the six central feathers tipped with chestnut; abdomen yellowish green; flanks orange; thighs mingled rufous and green; under tail-coverts crimson; bill whitish horn-colour; culmen and tips of both mandibles pale green; sides washed with pale bluish green; upper mandible crossed by irregular bars of black, and the lower one by a single nearly vertical band of the same hue near the apex, meeting an oblique mark on the upper mandible; orbits fine yellowish green; inner circumference of the irides yellow, outer pale green, clouded anterior and posterior to the pupil with dark brown; tarsi and toes dark green.

Total length, 13 inches; *bill*, $2\frac{1}{4}$; *wing*, $5\frac{1}{2}$; *tail*, $5\frac{1}{4}$; *tarsi*, $1\frac{1}{4}$.

Female.—Crown of the head, throat and breast reddish brown, inclining to chestnut on the former; flanks pale orange; ear-coverts reddish olive; in every other respect the plumage of the female resembles that of the male; the bill is also very similar, but is not so richly coloured, and has the transverse markings less defined and not so numerous.

After death the delicate green colouring of the mandibles disappears and leaves the sides more horny.

Pteroglossus maculirostris, Licht. Verz. der Doubl., p. 7. No. 25.—Wagl. Syst. Av., *Pteroglossus*, sp. 9.—Gould, Mon. of Ramph., pl. 24.—Ib. Sturm's Edit., pl. —Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 404, *Pteroglossus*, sp. 20.

L'Araçari Koulik mâle du Brésil, Le Vaill. Ois. de Parad., tom. i. p. 39. pl. 15.—Female, Ib. Supp., p. 41. fig. A, A.

Ramphastos maculatus, Vieill. Gal. des Ois., tom. ii.—Supp. texte et pls. mâle et femelle.—Jard. & Selby, Ill. Orn., vol. i. pl. 26.

Janeiro Toucan, Lath. Gen. Hist. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 292. pl. xxx. female.

Selenidera maculirostris, Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., p. 95, *Selenidera*, sp. 2.

This is generally regarded as the commonest of the Toucanets, few collections of any magnitude being without examples; in reality, however, it is not more common than the other species of the genus, which are simply more rare with us, because their native localities have been less frequently visited by collectors.

The portions of South America in which it appears to be most abundant are the southern and eastern districts of Brazil, where it frequents the virgin forests and subsists upon fruits and berries; it is probable that it also feeds upon caterpillars and other insects, but this is at present unascertained.

The following note has been kindly communicated to me by His Highness Prince Maximilian of Weid, to whom my thanks are due:—

The *S. maculirostris* “appears to be less abundant in the eastern parts of Brazil than the other species observed by me. Its mode of life and economy were precisely similar to those of the Common Araçari. On the Rio Belmonte and the Rio Parde it was known by the name of *Arassari-poka*. The length of a fresh-killed male was 13 inches; breadth 16 inches.”

The Plate represents two males and a female of the natural size.