

## PTEROGLOSSUS HUMBOLDTI, Wagl.

Humboldt's Araçari.

### SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

*Mas.*—*Pter. rostro majore; mandibulâ superiore flavescenti-aurantiacâ, culmine, lineâ basali cingente, maculâque ad singulam serraturam nigris; mandibulâ inferiore nigrâ, ad basin flavescenti-aurantiaco cinctâ.*

*Male.*—Head, neck, throat and chest black; back, wings and tail olive-green; upper tail-coverts crimson; primaries blackish brown; under surface yellow, tinged with green on the flanks; thighs chestnut; upper mandible yellowish orange, the culmen, tip, a line down the sides near the base, and a narrow irregular mark above each serrature black; under mandible black, bounded at the base with orange-yellow; orbits, in front of the eye greenish blue, above and behind purer blue, beneath lilac, between which and the purer blue is a triangular mark of scarlet; irides dark carmine; legs and feet dark green.

Total length, 16 inches; bill, 4; wing,  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ; tail,  $6\frac{1}{2}$ ; tarsi,  $1\frac{3}{8}$ .

*Female.*—Sides of the face, ear-coverts, throat and chest chestnut; in all other respects similar to the male.

*Pteroglossus Humboldtii*, Wagl. Syst. Av., *Pteroglossus*, sp. 4.—Gould, in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part III. p. 157.—Gould, Mon. of Ramph., pl. 22.—Ib. Sturm's Edit., pl. —Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 404, *Pteroglossus*, sp. 11.—Bonap. Conspl. Gen. Av., p. 94, *Pteroglossus*, sp. 12.

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THIS species, although known to us for nearly thirty years, having been first discovered in the western parts of Brazil, by Spix and Martius, previous to 1824, is still very rare in collections. Its native country is the extensive and almost unexplored forests of the Upper Amazon and the Rio Madeira; it was in the latter country that M. Natterer obtained his specimens, and it is to him that I am indebted for the colouring of the soft parts, he having kindly communicated them to me during his sojourn in London, when on his return from the Brazils to Vienna; and they may therefore be depended on.

Mr. Wallace, who procured specimens on the southern bank of the Amazon above the Rio Madeira, informs me that, like the Curl-crested Araçari (*Pteroglossus Beauharnaisi*), it is very local, and that, as is also the case with some other members of this family, a river often forms the boundary of its habitat; a feature which I frequently observed to occur with respect to Australian birds, both in Van Diemen's Land and on the continent of Australia.

This fine species is very nearly allied to *P. inscriptus*, and exhibits a similar style of markings on the sides of the bill; but the much larger size of the bird and the entire black colouring of the under mandible readily distinguish it from that species.

The Plate represents the two sexes of the natural size.