

PTEROGLOSSUS TORQUATUS, Wagl.

Collared Araçari.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Pter. mandibulâ superiore stramineâ, nigro-serratâ, culmine nigro; inferiore nigrâ, fasciâ angustâ albâ, capite aterrimâ; cervice fasciâ lunatâ castaneâ posticè cinctâ.

Head, neck and throat deep black; at the back of the neck a semilunar mark of chestnut; back, wings and tail olive-green; rump and upper tail-coverts blood-red; below the black of the throat a narrow band of blood-red; across the breast a broad band of yellow stained with blotches of pale blood-red; in the upper part of this yellow band a large patch of black; below a band of black mingled with blood-red, the latter predominating on the sides; abdomen and under tail-coverts pale yellow, the latter stained with red; thighs chestnut-brown; upper mandible straw-yellow; the culmen, tip and serratures black; on the sides at the base a wash of salmon-red in some, of a deeper and bluer tint in others; lower mandible black; raised ridge at the base of the mandibles white; feet green.

Total length, 17 inches; bill, 4; wing, 6; tail, $7\frac{1}{4}$; tarsi, $1\frac{3}{4}$.

Araçari Toucan, var. A. Lath. Gen. Hist., vol. ii. p. 290.

Pteroglossus torquatus, Wagl. in Oken's Isis, 1829, p. 508.—Sturm's Edit. of Mon. of Ramph., pl.

ambiguus, Less. Traité d'Orn., p. 173, *Pteroglossus*, sp. 14.

Regalis, Licht.—Gould's Mon. of Ramph., pl. 14.—Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 403, *Pteroglossus*, sp. 3.—Bonap. Conspl. Gen. Av., p. 94, *Pteroglossus*, sp. 3.

Ramphastos torquatus, Gmel. Syst. Nat., tom. i. p. 354?—Lath. Ind. Orn., tom. i. p. 137?

Tucana Mexicana torquata, Briss. Orn., tom. iv. p. 421?

Collared Toucan, Lath. Gen. Syn., vol. i. p. 330?—Shaw, Gen. Zool., vol. viii. p. 396?—Lath. Gen. Hist., vol. ii. p. 287?

We find in the writings of the older authors—Gmelin, Latham, and others—a species of this family called *Ramphastos torquatus*, which may have been intended to indicate the present bird, but their descriptions and measurements are somewhat inapplicable; at the same time it is the only species yet discovered having a distinct reddish collar at the back of the neck, and there is no other bird which agrees so well with their obscure descriptions. It is unquestionably the *torquatus* of Wagler; a name, which the law of priority obliges me to adopt, as it was certainly given to the bird prior to that of *Regalis* being assigned to it by my much-esteemed friend Dr. Lichtenstein, who, as is well known, has devoted a long life to the advancement of science, and whose labours are so highly and justly valued by all who are acquainted with them; and whose name I relinquish with regret.

The native habitat of this fine species is Southern Mexico; but it appears to extend its range across the country, and to inhabit the forests on the shores both of the Atlantic and of the Pacific. I have specimens in my possession from Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and other parts of Central America; and Messrs. Sturm speak of a specimen which they had received from Bogota; but I think that the locality here given wants confirmation, and that some mistake must have been made in the communication to those gentlemen, as among the many collections I have seen from thence no specimen of this bird has occurred. They also mention that the irides are white, but their authority for so stating is not given. In a specimen at the British Museum, from which the eyes have not been removed, they are, even in a dried state, of a rich orange colour, and I have accordingly so represented them.

There is scarcely a more ornamental or better defined species in the whole genus than the present; the only one with which it could be confounded is the *Pteroglossus erythropygius*, and from that species its nuchal collar at once distinguishes it. I must not omit to mention that great diversity occurs with respect to the size and form of the black spot on the chest; in some it is nearly obsolete, in others a large round patch, and in others it assumes a triangular shape; nor must I fail to notice that the bill is nearly as broad as it is deep, much flattened at the base of the culmen, and correspondingly developed at the sides, presenting an appearance of massiveness and strength.

The pretty Orchid figured on the accompanying Plate is the *Maxillaria leptosepala*.

The front figure represents a male of the natural size; the hinder one is somewhat reduced.