

## RAMPHASTOS DICOLORUS, Gmel.

### Green-billed Toucan.

#### SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

*Ramph. rostro viridi-luteo, marginibus serratis rubris, fasciâ latâ basali nigrâ; pectore auran-  
tiaco, lineâ sulphureâ cincto; abdomine caudæque tectricibus coccineis.*

Crown of the head, back, wings, tail, flanks, thighs and vent black glossed with steel-blue; chin and throat delicate primrose-yellow, with a large gorget-like mark of rich orange in the centre; abdomen, upper and under tail-coverts blood-red; bill greenish yellow, becoming of a more pure yellow on the culmen; both mandibles surrounded at the base by a broad band of black; orbits red; immediately behind the nostrils a small patch of yellow feathers; irides greenish yellow, the green tint predominating so as to form a ring next the pupil; eyelash greyish blue; feet blue.

Total length, 18 inches; bill,  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ; wing,  $7\frac{1}{4}$ ; tail,  $6\frac{1}{4}$ ; tarsi,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Ramphastos dicolorus*, Linn. Syst. Nat., tom. i. p. 152.—Gmel. Edit. Linn. Syst. Nat. tom. i. p. 356.—Lath. Ind. Orn., tom. i. p. 135.—Swains. Zool. Ill., vol. ii. pl. 108.—Jard. and Selby, Ill. Orn. vol. i. pl. 29.—Turt. Edit. Linn. Syst. Nat., vol. i. p. 211.—Wagl. Syst. Av., *Ramphastos*, sp. 14.—Less. Traité d'Orn., p. 173, *Ramphastos*, sp. 14.—Vieill. Ency. Méth. Orn., Part III. p. 1429. pl. 107, fig. 3.—Gould, Mon. of Ramph., pl. 11.—Ib., Sturm's Edit., pl. .—Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 403, *Ramphastos*, sp. 11.—Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., p. 93, *Ramphastos*, sp. 14.

———— *chlororhynchus*, Temm. Man. d'Orn., tom. i. p. lxxvi.

———— *pectoralis*, Shaw, Gen. Zool., vol. viii. p. 365.

*Le Tucai*, Azara, Voy. dans l'Amér. Mér. Sonn. Edit., tom. iii. p. 143. No. LI.

*Toucan à gorge jaune*, Buff. Pl. Enl., 269.—Ib. Hist des Ois., tom. vii. p. 118.

*Yellow-throated Toucan*, Lath. Gen. Syn., vol. i. p. 325.—Ib. Gen. Hist. vol. ii. p. 282.

*Le Petit Toucan à ventre rouge*, Levaill. Hist. Nat. des Ois. de Parad., tom. ii. p. 22. pl. 8.

*Ramphastos Tucai*, Licht. Verz. der Doubl., p. 7. No. 23.—Wagl. Syst. Av., *Ramphastos*, sp. 13.—Less. Traité d'Orn., p. 173, *Ramphastos*, sp. 13.

It is the opinion of ornithologists generally that this bird is referable to the *Ramphastos dicolorus* of Linnaeus and Gmelin, under which appellation I have accordingly retained it: if such be the case, it is certain that the habitat assigned to it by those authors (Cayenne) is decidedly incorrect; the true habitat of the species being the southern portions of Brazil and Paraguay, all, or nearly all the specimens which reach this country, coming by way of Rio de Janeiro. Mr. Natterer shot it in the forests on the road to San Paulo, but never observed it farther to the southward than the 25th degree of south latitude. It is very well described by Azara, who mentions that he met with it in the dense woods, but gives no account of its habits.

The *R. dicolorus* may be readily distinguished from every other known species by its greenish yellow bill and by its scarlet abdomen. It is so extremely common, that no collection need be without examples.

The two lower figures represent young birds in that state in which they are barely capable of providing for their own wants; the bill at this age is extremely delicate in texture, and is so soft and yielding as apparently to require the most soft and pulpy fruits, to which in all probability insects and their larvæ are added. It will be seen that in this youthful state the plumage has assumed the almost perfect colouring, the tints being scarcely less brilliant than those of the adult, and I believe that the same law prevails with regard to the other species of the family. In this respect they closely resemble the Kingfishers and other Fissirostral birds, as they also do in laying white eggs and incubating in dark recesses, especially the holes of trees.

The sexes are alike in colouring, but the female is somewhat smaller than the male.

The figures are of the natural size.