

RAMPHASTOS VITELLINUS, *Ill.*

Sulphur and White-breasted Toucan.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Ramph. rostro nigro ; fasciâ basali cœruleo posticè lineâ nigrâ cinctâ ; pectore aurantiaco-flavo in album ad latera et anticè transeunte ; tectricibus caudæ superioribus et inferioribus coccineis.

General plumage black ; breast orange, gradually blending with the white of the cheeks, chin, and sides of the neck ; across the chest, immediately below the orange, a broad crescentic mark of deep blood-red ; the upper and under tail-coverts are also blood-red ; bill black, with the exception of a broad band of blue near the base and a stripe of the same hue uniting with it on the base of the culmen ; orbits greenish blue ; feet blue.

Total length, $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; bill, $4\frac{3}{4}$; wing, $7\frac{3}{4}$; tail, 7 ; tarsi, $1\frac{3}{4}$.

Le Pignan-coin, ou Toucan à gorge jaune, Levaill. Hist. Nat. des Ois. de Parad., tom. ii. p. 19. pl. 7.

Ramphastos vitellinus, Ill.—Swains. Zool. Ill., vol. i. pl. 56.—Licht. Verz. der Doubl., p. 7. No. 22.—Gould, Mon. of Ramph., pl. 9.—Ib. Sturm's Edit., pl. —Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 403, *Ramphastos*, sp. 9.—Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., p. 93, *Ramphastos*, sp. 11.—Less. Traité d'Orn., p. 173, *Ramphastos*, sp. 12.—Wagl. Syst. Av., *Ramphastos*, sp. 12.

THIS fine species, like the *Ramphastos Ariel*, has the upper and under tail-coverts scarlet ; and this so constant, that in the hundreds of specimens I have seen no indication of a yellow or orange hue has been observable : I mention this fact, because the late Mr. John Natterer once obtained a specimen which he considered to be referable to this species with the tail-coverts orange, but which I consider to have been an accidental variety or a distinct species. The native habitat of this bird is Guiana, Cayenne, I believe the Island of Trinidad, and the banks of the Amazon generally. Mr. Natterer also found it on the banks of the Rio Branco below the Sierra Caraman under the second degree of north latitude, and still further south near Barra on the Rio Negro. Specimens from Guiana are somewhat larger in size, have stronger bills, and have the orange colouring of the breast of a deeper tint and more diffused than those from the other localities ; they cannot, however, be regarded as distinct, but simply as a local variety.

The figures are of the natural size.