

RAMPHASTOS CULMINATUS, *Gould.*

Culminated Toucan.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Ramph. rostro nigro, culmine fasciâque basali viridi-flavis; gulâ pectoreque albis.

Head, back, wings, abdomen and tail black; throat and chest white, bounded by a narrow pectoral band of blood-red; rump feathers sulphur-yellow at the base, passing into fiery orange at their tips; under tail-coverts blood-red; bill black, with the exception of the culmen, the tips of both mandibles, and a very broad band at the base of each, which are greenish yellow; orbits and feet apparently lead-colour, and the irides brown.

Total length, $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $5\frac{5}{8}$; wing, $8\frac{1}{2}$; tail, 7; tarsi, $1\frac{7}{8}$.

Ramphastos culminatus, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part I. p. 70.—Gould, Mon. of Ramph., pl. 1.—Ib. Sturm's Edit., pl. .—Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 403, *Ramphastos*, sp. 4.—Bonap. Conspl. Gen. Av., p. 92, *Ramphastos*, sp. 4.

It is impossible to confound the present with any other known species of Toucan; its snow-white breast, which I believe is at all ages unsullied, together with the beautiful greenish yellow culmen and band at the base of the bill, and the rich orange-coloured tail-coverts, being characters which will always distinguish it; besides which, the white rises higher on the cheeks, and leaves a smaller orbit than in any other species. The specimen in my own collection was obtained in New Grenada, while another in the British Museum, the finest example of this bird I have yet seen, was collected by Mr. Wallace on the Upper Amazon. The specimen referred to in my former edition, as being in the collection of the Zoological Society, has the bill very much curved; the bill of my own specimen is formed like that of the front figure in the accompanying Plate, while the bill of the British Museum example is of an intermediate form; it is evident, therefore, that the contour of the bill is not constant: a depressed groove on each side immediately below the culmen is also found in some specimens, and not in others. Nothing whatever is known respecting the habits and economy of this bird; but I am enabled to state that the countries mentioned above are among its natural habitats, a circumstance until lately unknown. It must be regarded as one of the rarest of the true Toucans (*Ramphasti*), there being few collections in Europe which contain examples. As is the case with the other members of the genus, the sexes present no external difference, and the female is only distinguished by her somewhat smaller size.

The figures are of the natural size.