

## RAMPHASTOS ERYTHRORHYNCHUS, Gmel.

### Red-billed Toucan.

#### SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

*Ramph. rostro rubro; culmine luteo; genis, gutture, pectoreque, albis lutescenti-tinctis; tectricibus caudæ superioribus flavis.*

Crown of the head, back, wings, abdomen and tail black; throat and breast white, with a faint wash of straw-colour pervading the latter, and bounded below by a crescent of fine deep scarlet; upper tail-coverts sulphur-yellow; under tail-coverts deep scarlet; bill rich crimson-red on the sides, bounded posteriorly by a transverse band, which as well as the edges of both mandibles and the point of the lower is deep black; culmen yellow, becoming of a pale horn-colour at the tip; across the base of the bill a broad band, which on the upper mandible is yellow, and on the under rich bluish lead-colour, the two colours blending into each other at the edges of the mandibles; immediately at the base of the bill a strong line of black; orbits greenish blue, with a ring of bluish lilac around the eye; irides dark brown; naked skin of the throat bluish green; above the orbits at the base of the upper mandible a small patch of white feathers; feet blue, with a lilac tinge on their under surface; nails black.

Total length, 22 inches; bill,  $6\frac{1}{2}$ ; wing, 9; tail,  $6\frac{1}{2}$ ; tarsi, 2.

*Female*.—Similar to the male in colour, but somewhat smaller in size.

*Toucan Surinamensis niger ex albo, flavo, et rubro mixtus*, Petiv. Gazoph., t. 44. fig. 13.

*Red-beaked Toucan*, Edw. Glean. Nat. Hist., p. 58. pl. 238.—Lath. Gen. Syn., vol. i. p. 328.

*Ramphastos Tucanus*, Linn. Syst. Nat. Edit. 10.—Borowski, Natur., tom. ii. p. 97. t. 6.

*Tucana Cayanensis gutture albo*, Briss. Orn., 4to. tom. iv. p. 416. pl. xxxi. fig. 2, 8vo. tom. ii. p. 159.

*Ramphastos erythrorhynchus*, Gmel. Edit. Linn. Syst. Nat., tom. i. p. 355.—Wagl. Syst. Av.

*Ramphastos*, sp. 2.—Vig. in Zool. Journ., vol. ii. p. 473.—Gould, Mon. of Ramph., pl. 3.—Less. Traité d'Orn., p. 170, *Ramphastos*, sp. 2.

*Toucan à gorge blanche*, Buff. Pl. Enl. 262.—Ib. Hist. des Ois., tom. vii. p. 121.

*Ramphastos erythrorhynchus*, Lath. Ind. Orn., vol. i. p. 136.—Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 403, *Ramphastos*, sp. 1.

*Ramphastos erythrorhyncos*, Vieill. Ency. Méth. Orn., Part III. p. 1429, *Ramphastos*, sp. 3.

*Le Tocan*, Levaill. Hist. Nat. des Ois. de Parad., tom. ii. p. 10. pl. 3.

*Le Tocan à collier jaune*, Levaill. Ib., p. 13. pl. 4. (With the scarlet of the breast band and under tail-coverts abstracted, says Mr. John Natterer, by exposure to light, or the heat of an oven to which it had probably been subjected to destroy the insects that had attacked the skin.)

*Red-billed Toucan*, Lath. Gen. Hist., vol. ii. p. 285.—Shaw, Gen. Hist., vol. viii. p. 367. pl. 47.

—Ib. Nat. Misc., pl. 183.

*Ramphastos Levaillantii*, Wagl. Syst. Av., *Ramphastos*, sp. 3.—Less. Traité d'Orn., p. 170, *Ramphastos*, sp. 3.

THIS is one of the oldest known species of Toucan, a figure and description of it having been published by Petiver in 1709; it occurs among the drawings by Madame Merian, formerly in the possession of Sir Hans Sloane, and now in the British Museum (where it is represented nearly of the natural size, with a small bird between its mandibles); it is also figured by Edwards, Brisson and Borowski, and it is doubtless the bird to which Linnæus, in the 10th Edition of his "Systema Naturæ," assigned the specific appellation of *Tucanus*; as, however, this term, or rather that of *Tucana*, was applied by all the preceding writers in a generic rather than a specific sense, it becomes necessary to adopt that of *erythrorhynchus* of Gmelin for the species here represented. The synonyms given above have all reference to the present bird.

The richly ornamented and elegant *Ramphastos erythrorhynchus* is very numerously distributed over the whole of the densely wooded fluviatile regions of the river Amazon, and Mr. John Natterer found it on