

## INTRODUCTION.

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Le Vaillant to three of the species figured in his "Oiseaux de Paradis," viz. *Ramphastos Tocard*, *R. Azarae*, and *R. Bailloni*. Mr. Swainson made us acquainted with three additional species, *Ramphastos ambiguus*, *Pteroglossus inscriptus*, and *Pt. sulcatus*. Dr. Lichtenstein gave the names of *Pteroglossus prasinus* and *Pt. maculirostris* to two well-marked species. Dr. Latham did not add a single species to the group; unless his *Blue-eared Toucan*, to which he gave no specific appellation, be identical with *Aulacoramus sulcatus*. The *Ramphastos Indicus* of Miller's "Cimelia Physica" is doubtless meant to represent a Toucan; and if the colours of the under surface were transposed it would then more nearly resemble *R. Toco* than any other.

Wagler, who gave a monograph of the group in his "Systema Avium," published in 1827, added the following species,—*Ramphastos Cuvieri* and *Pteroglossus Reinwardti*, *Langsdorffii* and *Humboldti*. Subsequently he published in Oken's "Isis" the description of a fifth new species under the name of *Pteroglossus Beauharnaisii*. His *Ramphastos Le Vaillantii* is merely the description of the faded *R. erythrorhynchus*, figured by Le Vaillant on his fourth plate; his *Ramphastos callorhynchus* is identical with the *R. carinatus* of Swainson; his *R. Forsterorum* is taken from the fifth plate of Le Vaillant, which is said to be a representation of a bird made up from *R. Ariel* and *R. Cuvieri*; his *R. erythrosoma* cannot be identified with any known bird; the characters were taken from Le Vaillant's sixth plate representing a specimen which had probably been tampered with by the bird-mounter, a much to be reprehended, though not unfrequent practice; lastly, his *Pteroglossus Poëppigi* is identical with his *Pt. Beauharnaisii*.

Both Prince Charles Lucien Bonaparte and Mr. G. R. Gray consider the *Ramphastos maximus* of Cuvier to be identical with the *R. erythrosoma* of Wagler, which, as above stated, has been founded upon a made-up specimen.

Mr. Vigors, who commenced a monograph of the family in the "Zoological Journal," but did not live to complete it, named two others, *Ramphastos Ariel* and *Pteroglossus bitorquatus*.

Mr. Fraser pointed out the characters which distinguish his *Pteroglossus flavirostris* from the true *Pt. Azarae* for which I had mistaken it.

During my absence in Australia Mr. Waterhouse described a fine new species as *Pteroglossus nigrostris*, the bird almost simultaneously receiving the appellation of *Pt. melanorhynchus* from the Messrs. Sturm of Nuremberg.

M. Natterer, who has furnished us with so much valuable information respecting this group, named two new species *Pteroglossus Gouldii* and *Pt. Sturmii*.