

P R E F A C E.

IN the Preface to the First Edition of this Work I remarked that I was induced to publish it in order to make known several new species of a most remarkable group of birds, and to revise and set forth in as clear a light as possible the numerous members of which the family is composed; if these reasons were sufficient to induce me then to attempt their elucidation, the same reasons become still more urgent now, when after an interval of twenty years a great amount of information respecting the entire group, and a further addition of new species has been obtained, rendering a SECOND EDITION a matter of necessity. It appeared to me, as I formerly remarked, that the members of the group were naturally divided into several more genera than the two—*Ramphastos* and *Pteroglossus*—then recognised; nor did I omit to notice a suggestion, that some distinguishing title should be given to these divisions, but I did not then feel warranted in following out this idea; the materials since acquired have, however, thrown much additional light on the subject, and I now feel myself justified in proposing the requisite generic appellations, which with their appropriate characters will be found in their proper place in the Introduction.

In order to render the Work as perfect as possible, I have obtained access to all the collections of this country, and have also visited and examined the principal Museums of the continent; in several of which I found some species not contained in the others. Thus in Vienna I first saw the *Pteroglossus pluricinctus*; in Munich *Selenidera Reinwardti*, *S. Langsdorffii* and *Aulacoramus Wagleri*; in Paris *Pteroglossus flavirostris*; while Berlin and Leyden both contained other species not previously known to me. In many instances single specimens only existed, appertaining moreover to *Ramphastidae*, in which much dissimilarity occurs in the colouring of the sexes, whereby I was prevented from illustrating those species so fully as I could have wished. Just as my Monograph was brought to a close, that celebrated traveller and naturalist, the late Mr. John Natterer of Vienna, returned to Europe, bringing with him females of the species of which I found males only at Munich, together with several other new ones acquired during a sojourn of eighteen years in the Brazils; unfortunately, however, he did not arrive in London until the last sheets had gone to press, consequently I was unable to