

PTEROGLOSSUS FLAVIROSTRIS, Fras.

Yellow-billed Araçari.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Pter. rostro stramineo-flavo; tomiae, mandibulae superioris emarginationibus nigris; mandibula inferiore aurantio tincta.

Male.—Crown of the head black; back of the neck between the shoulders dark chestnut-red; upper surface, wings and tail very dark green; primaries black, edged with very dark green; rump deep blood-red; cheeks and throat blackish chestnut, bounded below by a narrow line of deep black; across the breast a broad crescentic mark of blood-red; on the upper part of the abdomen a broad band of black, tinged with green; lower part of the abdomen and under tail-coverts yellow, stained with blood-red next the black band, particularly on the sides; thighs olive; bill delicate straw-yellow, with a narrow streak of black along the serrations of the upper mandible, and a broad streak of orange-yellow along the cutting edge of the lower mandible; irides dark carmine-red; orbits immediately round the eye dark greenish grey, inclining to indigo-blue, and with a patch of red in the anterior angle above, and another in the posterior angle behind the eye; legs green.

Total length, $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill, $3\frac{3}{4}$; wing, $5\frac{1}{2}$; tail, $6\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Female.—Similar in colour, but with the chestnut hue of the throat paler, and the black mark bounding it below more conspicuous than in the male.

Pteroglossus Azaræ, Gould's Mon. of Ramph., pl. 17.

——— *flavirostris*, Fras. in Proc. of Zool. Soc., Part VIII. p. 60.—Sturm's Edit. of Gould's Mon. of Ramph., p. —Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 403, *Pteroglossus*, sp. 7.—Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., p. 94, *Pteroglossus*, sp. 7.

FROM the time I published my first drawing of this species, now nearly twenty years ago, until very lately, I have been greatly perplexed respecting the specimen in the Museum of the Jardin des Plantes at Paris from which it was taken, inasmuch as none of the numerous examples sent to this country agreed with it, and it was only upon a more careful examination of it on a late visit, that I discovered that the specimen had been partly manufactured, the second broad scarlet band across the abdomen having been substituted for the few stains of that colour which occur in the genuine specimens:—this practice of malversating species cannot be too forcibly deprecated, tending as it does to produce inextricable confusion.

We learn from Sturm's Edition of this work, that the indefatigable Mr. John Natterer met with this species near Marabitana, on the 14th of May 1831, at which time it was moulting, and again on the 4th of June, in the woods on the banks of the River Xie, a tributary of the Upper Rio Negro; and that Professor Poeppig also met with it on the Amazonas, in the province of Maynas in Peru; and I have very fine specimens from New Grenada.

The *Pteroglossus flavirostris* may be at once distinguished from *P. Azaræ* by the uniform straw-yellow colouring of its upper mandible, or in other words, by being without any trace of the red streak along that portion of the bill which is so conspicuous in *P. Azaræ*; and by its having a streak of orange along the lower mandible, which part of the bill in *P. Azaræ* is entirely free from markings of any kind; in every other respect the two species are alike in colour.

The figures represent the two sexes of the natural size.