

GRYPUS SPIXI, *Gould.*

Spix's Saw-bill.

Grypus Spixi, Gould in Proc. of Zool. Soc., part xxviii. p. 304.

I OBTAINED a single specimen of this bird from M. Parzudaki of Paris, but was unable to learn whence it had been received, a fact which would be of much interest both to myself and to every scientific ornithologist; I have but little doubt, however, that the bird is a native of Brazil.

Not being able to find any published description of a species according with the present bird, whose thick and powerful bill, together with other characters, at once indicate its proper place in the family of Trochilidæ, I have no alternative but to characterize it as new. When I first described it, I accompanied my description with a remark, which I may as well repeat here:—

“This bird is considerably smaller than *G. nævius*, and has a less cuneate tail. It is possible that this may be one of the sexes of *Glaucis Dohrni*; many of its colours would induce such a belief; and if this should prove to be the case, that bird must be removed from the genus *Glaucis* to that of *Grypus*. I have named this species in honour of the celebrated traveller Spix, in whose work there occurs a figure of a bird (*G. ruficollis*) which somewhat resembles my specimen; not so, however, the accompanying description, which appears to be that of the species so frequently sent from Rio de Janeiro, and which is generally known as *Grypus nævius*.”

Crown of the head bronzy brown; upper surface and all the tail-feathers very rich reddish bronze; wings reddish purple-brown; line above the eye buff; ear-coverts dark brown; throat, chest, and under surface deep reddish buff; under tail-coverts bronzy, each slightly tipped with buffy white; upper mandible black; under mandible yellow, with a black tip; feet yellow.

The figures are of the natural size. The plant is the *Brassavola lineata*.