PTEROGLOSSUS HYPOGLAUCUS.

Grey-breasted Araçari.

Specific Character.

Pter. mandibulis lineâ flavâ basali circumdatis, maculâque triangulari subbasali nigrâ plagâque flavâ nigro marginatâ notatis; superioris culmine lateribusque antrorsum saturatè sanguineis; inferiore, nisi basin versus, atrâ: olivaceo-brunneus, subtùs cæruleo-canus; capite caudâque nigris, rectricibus quatuor intermediis ad apicem brunneis; remigum pogoniis externis viridibus, internis brunneis; uropygio lutescente; tectricibus caudæ superioribus viridiolivaceis, inferioribus coccineis.

Beak; the upper mandible edged on its basal aspect with a narrow line of yellow succeeded by a triangular spot of black, an irregular mark of yellow next succeeds edged by a line of black, the culmen and the remainder of the sides deep blood red; the basal half of the lower mandible has the yellow and black colouring of the upper, but terminates in deep black instead of red; crown of the head and occiput black; back, shoulders, and thighs rich olive brown; outer edges of the quills green; inner brown; rump light greenish yellow; upper tail-coverts greenish olive; tail black, the four middle feathers tipped with brown; under tail-coverts scarlet; whole of the neck, chest, and under parts silvery grey. Total length, 18½ inches; beak, 4 long, depth, 1½, breadth at base, 1½; wing, 6¾; tail, 7; tarsus, 1¾.

Pteroglossus hypoglaucus. Gould, Proceedings of Zool. Soc., part 1. p. 70.

In the disposition of its markings, and the general colour and texture of its plumage, this singular Araçari differs remarkably from all others yet discovered; the beak being more brilliant, and the plumage of the body less ostentatious and gaudy. Nor does it present a less striking difference in its habitat, all the other species being found in the lower and warmer regions, while according to information received from an authentic source, the Grey-breasted Araçari inhabits the mountains, and is to be found only on the highest wooded portions of the Andes, for which elevated and cold situations the full and downy texture of its plumage, so different from the close feathering of the Araçaries in general, admirably adapts it. The specific name given to this bird relates to the beautiful silvery lustre which prevades the fine grey tints spread over the breast and under surface.

This interesting bird, with many other valuable specimens of Ornithology, was sent to me by my esteemed and valued correspondent D. Christie, Esq., of Popayan, Columbia; and I here gladly avail myself of the opportunity of testifying my sincere acknowledgements for the many favours received, as also for much important information.

As I have never met with this bird in the museums of this country or in those I have visited on the Continent, and Dr. Latham's notice of a "Blue-throated Toucan" being too vague and unsatisfactory to afford any tangible data, I have every reason for concluding this species to have been hitherto undescribed. Of the two specimens received, one is deposited in the Museum of the Zoological Society of London.

Inhabits Columbia.