

## PTEROGLOSSUS MACULIROSTRIS, *Lichtenstein.*

### Spotted-bill Araçari.

#### SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Mas. *Pter. rostro abbreviato, cinerascete, in olivaceum ad culmen vergente; mandibulâ superiore ad latera maculis transversis nigris irregulariter fasciatâ: suprâ saturatè viridis; corpore infrâ, capite, nuchâ, collique lateribus aterrimis, nitidis; genis bimaculatis, maculâ superiore sulphureâ, inferiore aurantiacâ; fasciâ lunatâ cervicali sulphureâ; caudâ olivaceo-viridi, rectricibus sex intermediis rufo apiculatis; tectricibus caudæ inferioribus coccineis; abdomine imo femoribusque croceo, sulphureo, viridique variegatis.*

Fœm. *Corpore infrâ, capite, nuchâ, collique lateribus castaneis; macularum genarum superiore sordidè sulphureâ, inferiore obscurè viridi-brunneâ.*

*Male.* Beak short, pale grey or whitish inclining to olive on the culmen; the sides of the upper mandible irregularly barred with large transverse patches of black; the head, nape, sides of the neck, throat, chest, and middle of the belly, deep shining black; on the cheeks are situated two tufts of feathers; the lower one, which is of a primrose yellow, forms the ear-coverts, and the other, which proceeds from the rictus, is orange; the beak, whole of the upper surface, and wings, deep sap green inclining to olive, divided from the black of the nape by a crescent-shaped band of primrose yellow; tail olive green, the six middle feathers tipped with rufous; the lower part of the abdomen has a mixture of saffron and primrose yellow intermingled with oil green, which prevails especially on the thighs; under tail-coverts scarlet; legs and feet lead colour.

*Female.* Somewhat less than the male, and differing considerably in plumage, having the head, nape, sides of the neck, throat, and breast, chestnut instead of black; the ear-coverts of a less lively yellow, and the tufts of feathers proceeding from the rictus of an obscure greenish brown.

Total length, 12 inches; *beak*,  $2\frac{1}{4}$ ; *wing*,  $4\frac{3}{4}$ ; *tail*, 5; *tarsus*,  $1\frac{3}{4}$ .

*L'Araçari Koulîk du Brésil.* Le Vaill., Ois. de Parad., vol. 2. p. 45. t. 15.

Male. Ibid., Suppl., p. 41. fig. A A.

*Pteroglossus maculatus.* Jard. & Selby, Illus. of Ornith., vol. 1. pl. 26.

*L'Araçari à bec tacheté; Ramphastos maculatus.* Vieill., Gal. des Ois., tom. 2.

THE Spotted-bill Araçari may be readily distinguished from all other known species by the abbreviated form of its beak, and the distinct but irregular spots of black on the upper mandible, whence is derived its specific name *maculirostris*. As the object in employing any distinguishing term should be to point out most readily some prominent specific character, I have been induced to adopt the name given to this species by M. Lichtenstein, prior to the one (*maculatus*) assigned to it by Vieillot.

Unlike the true Toucans, the sexes of many species of the *Pteroglossi* will be observed to present considerable difference in the colour of the plumage,—a fact which is forcibly illustrated in the present bird; the female possessing a rich chestnut-coloured head and breast, while the same parts in the male are deep shining black: this, however, is not characteristic of the whole genus, nor is it to be observed in any other species in so remarkable a degree.

The scarcity of information which had been obtained respecting this species, until within these few years, has been the cause of considerable confusion as regards the identity of the sexes. Among other instances we may notice Dr. Latham, who, in his laborious work, "The General History of Birds," has described and figured the female as a distinct species under the name of "Janeiro Toucan": moreover, he appears to have a doubt whether it may not be the female of the *piperivorous* species,—a bird differing in many of its characters.

The *P. maculirostris* is supposed to be strictly confined to the Brazils, as it is from thence alone that it has been received. It is to be regretted that no information can be added respecting its natural habits; in all probability they differ in minor details from those of the *Pteroglossi* of the same size, but which have beaks more enlarged in dimensions, though less powerful, than the short, thick, and strong bill of the present species.

Inhabits the Brazils.