



## RAMPHASTOS DICOLORUS, Linné.

### Red-breasted Toucan.

#### SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

*Ramph. rostro luteo, marginibus serratis rubris, fasciâ latâ basali nigrâ: ater chalybeo splendens; pectore aurantiaco, lineâ sulphureâ cincto; abdomine caudæque tectricibus coccineis.*

Beak greenish yellow with red serrated edges, the base of both mandibles surrounded by a broad band of black; naked skin round the eye red; the upper parts of the body, wings, tail, thighs and vent, black with steel blue reflections; centre of the breast bright orange encircled by a band of delicate primrose yellow; the belly, upper and under tail-coverts rich scarlet red; feet and legs blueish lead colour.

Total length, from 14 to 17 inches; length of *bill* from  $2\frac{3}{4}$  to  $3\frac{3}{4}$ , breadth at base  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ; *wing*, 7; *tail*,  $6\frac{1}{2}$ ; *tarsus*,  $1\frac{7}{8}$ .

*Ramphastos dicolorus.* Gm. Linn., p. 556. Lath., Ind. Orn., p. 135. 2. Turton, vol. 1. p. 211.

Swains., Zool. Illus., vol. 2. pl. 108. Jard. & Selby, Illus. of Orn., vol. 1. pl. xxix.

*Yellow-throated Toucan.* Lath., Syn., 1. 325., Gen. Hist. Birds, vol. 2. p. 282. Turton, vol. 1. p. 211. Brisson, Orn., tom. 4. p. 411. pl. 31. f. 1. Buffon, Pl. Enl., 269.

*Le petit Toucan à ventre rouge.* Le Vaill., Hist. Nat. des Toucans, pl. 8.

*Le Tucai.* Azar., Voy., 3. p. 143. n. 51. Wagler, Syst. Avium.

*Ramphastos Tucai.* Lichtenst., Catal., p. 7.

*Ramphastos chlororhynchus.* Temm., Man. d'Orn.

---

ORNITHOLOGISTS of the present day are induced to consider the bird here figured as referrible to the *Ramphastos dicolorus* of Linnæus; and without venturing to question the accuracy of this opinion, it must nevertheless be observed that the specific term is somewhat inapplicable to a bird possessing three decided and conspicuous colours. This species has been illustrated by Sir W. Jardine and Mr. Selby, in their valuable "Illustrations of Ornithology," as a typical example of the true Toucans; in which publication will also be found a somewhat lengthened description, as well as an account of the general habits and manners, of the species comprising this family.

The *Ramphastos dicolorus* may be readily distinguished from all other species by several prominent characters. It is the smallest of the genus, and in the colour and development of the bill much variety exists.

To the want of opportunity of examining a series of specimens at one time may be attributed the confusion in the nomenclature with respect to this bird. I am fully persuaded, however, that these changes are entirely attendant on age, sex, or season. The females have always the shorter bill and rather less brilliant colouring, offering also in stature the same disproportion, independent of which no other external differences are to be discovered, and these even are so trifling as scarcely to indicate the female without actual dissection.

The young bird, which is represented in the lower figure, is barely arrived at that period at which it is capable of providing for its own wants; the bill at this age is extremely delicate in texture, and is so soft and yielding as to require food of the most pulpy and nutritious nature, in all probability fruits, larvæ of insects, &c. Even at this youthful stage the plumage has assumed its perfect colouring, and the tints are scarcely less brilliant than those of the adult: in this particular the family of *Ramphastidæ* closely resemble the *Fissirostral* birds, and like them lay white eggs, and incubate in holes or dark recesses.

The present species is extensively spread over the Brazils. It has been received from Rio de Janeiro, Bahía, and Paraguay.