

RAMPHASTOS ERYTHORHYNCHUS.

Red-billed Toucan.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Ramph. rostro rubro, vittâ fasciâque basali flavis, hac posticè lineâ anticè fasciâ nigris cinctâ ; tomis nigris : niger ; jugulo pectoreque albis lutescenti tinctis ; torque pectorali angustâ caudæque tectricibus inferioribus coccineis, superioribus saturatè flavis.

Beak red at the sides, with a broad line of yellow continued throughout its entire length, and a basal belt of the same colour, bounded posteriorly by a narrow line of black and anteriorly by a broader one of the same colour ; a black line runs along the edges of both mandibles ; naked skin round the eye ; the legs and the feet blueish lead colour ; general plumage black ; the throat and chest white, with a tinge of greenish straw yellow, bounded by a narrow pectoral band of scarlet, the under tail-coverts being of the same colour, while the upper ones are deep yellow.

Total length, 23 inches ; bill, $6\frac{1}{2}$; wings, $8\frac{1}{2}$; tail, $6\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, 2.

Red-beaked Toucan. Edw., t. 238.

Ramphastos erythrorhynchus. Auct.

Le Toucan. Levaill., Ois. de Parad., vol. 2. t. 3.

Le Toucan à collier jaune? Levaill., Ois. de Parad., vol. 2 t. 4.

Toucan à gorge blanche de Cayenne, appelé Tocan. Buff., Pl. Enl., n. 262.

Ramphastos Levaillantii? Wagler, Syst. Avium.

THE present species, as its name implies, is distinguished by the brilliant colouring of its beak, which loses its original brightness immediately after death, so that the specimens exhibited in our museums might often be mistaken, upon a superficial glance, for other species. In one respect it is subject to slight variety in its colouring, as we do not find in all specimens the delicate straw-coloured tinge on the white breast, which is in all probability the index of a recent change of plumage, and which perhaps disappears after a short exposure to the action of light and heat.

Richly ornamented with well contrasted hues of great brilliancy, this elegant species inhabits the deep forests which border the Amazon, and the wooded districts of Cayenne and Guiana, being spread in considerable abundance over a wide extent of country. In its general habits and manners it resembles the rest of its congeners, leaping lightly from branch to branch among the topmost foliage of the highest trees, where it passes its existence.