

INTRODUCTION.

over the breast as well as the throat. The ear-coverts, and a crescent-shaped band separating the dark colour of the upper part of the neck from the green of the back, are yellow. In this section we find, for the first time, the upper tail-coverts destitute of any peculiar colour, and agreeing in tint with the adjoining part of the back.

11. *Pter. maculirostris*; with the bill white, marked on the sides of the upper mandible with about four large black blotches.

12. *Pter. Culik*; with the bill red at the base, and black throughout the remaining two thirds of its length.

G. The seventh and last section of the Araçaris comprehends two species, distinguished by the simplicity of their colouring from all those which have been previously noticed. They are of a nearly uniform colour, and are entirely destitute of those striking tints which vary so agreeably the plumage of the remainder of the genus. In both of them the upper part of the throat is white; in one of them the cheeks also are white, while in the other they are blue.

13. *Pter. prasinus*; with the under tail-coverts and tips of the tail-feathers brown.

14. *Pter. sulcatus*; with the under tail-coverts of the same green as the belly, and the tips of the tail-feathers tinged with blue.

In this last section, and especially in the last-named species, the bill acquires its maximum of deviation from the typical form of the family. Instead of being, as in the Toco Toucan, of greatly disproportionate length; compressed on the sides so as to be comparatively thin in its horizontal diameter while it is elevated in its vertical height; strongly arched along its upper edge, which is so narrow as to be almost sharp; and thin and light in its texture: it becomes in the Grooved-billed Araçari in every respect, as it were, condensed; its length is diminished so as to approach, in some degree, to the dimensions observable in certain Barbets, such as the *Bucco grandis* from the Himalayan mountains; its sides, though flattened and deeply grooved, are not approximated to each other, the horizontal or lateral diameter of the bill almost equalling its vertical height; the culmen is broad and flattened; and the whole substance is comparatively solid, and conformable to the structure observable in the approximating genera. In the form of its bill no less than in the colouring of its plumage the *Pter. sulcatus* is the most aberrant species of the family; it ought probably to be regarded as the type of a peculiar genus, and I should not have hesitated in so considering it, but for the intervention of the *Pter. prasinus*, which possesses most of its characteristics, though in a less marked degree, and which therefore connects it so immediately with the Araçaris in general as to