RAMPHASTOS CARINATUS, Swains.

Keel-billed Toucan.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Ramph. rostro compresso, fasciâ angustâ nigrâ basali circumdatâ, apice sanguineo; mandibulâ superiore viridi, culmine maculâque utrinque aurantio-flavis; gutture pectoreque luteis; uropygio albo.

Crown of the head and back of the neck dull black, with a wash of rufous on the latter, varying in intensity in different individuals; back, wings, abdomen and tail black, glossed with green; upper tail-coverts white; under tail-coverts vivid blood-red; cheeks and throat yellow, bounded below with a band of scarlet in some specimens and not in others; bill green, with a spot of orange-yellow on each side of the upper mandible, and a line of the same colour extending along the culmen throughout its whole length; both mandibles bounded at the base with a narrow line of black and tipped with red, and both marked with indistinct transverse rays of black; orbits verditer-green, passing into yellow on their outer margin; immediately behind the bill a small patch of yellow feathers; feet blue, with a tinge of lilac on their under surface.

Total length, 22 inches; *bill*, $5\frac{3}{4}$; *wing*, $8\frac{3}{4}$; *tail*, 7; *tarsi*, $2\frac{3}{4}$.

Toucan, or Brazilian Pie, Edw. Glean., vol. ii. p. 64. pl. 64.

Yellow-breasted Toucan, Ib., vol. iii. p. 253. pl. 329.

Ramphastos Tucanus, Shaw, Gen. Hist., vol. viii. p. 362.

———— *callorhynchus*, Wagl. Syst. Av., *Ramphastos*, sp. 6.

———— *pacilorhynchus*, Licht. in Mus. Berlin.

———— *sulfuratus*, Less. Traité d'Orn., p. 173.

———— *carinatus*, Swains. Zool. Ill., vol. i. pl. 45.—Wagl. Syst. Av., *Ramphastos*, sp. 7.

—Gould, Mon. of Ramph., pl. 7.—Ib. Sturm's Edit., pl.

———— *piscivorus*, Linn. Syst. Nat., tom. i. p. 151.—Gmel. Edit., tom. i. p. 355.—Lath.

Ind. Orn., tom. i. p. 136.—Gray and Mitch. Gen. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 403, *Ram-*

phastos, sp. 6.—Bonap. Consp. Gen. Av., p. 93, *Ramphastos*, sp. 9.

Tucana Brasiliensis gutture albo, Briss. Orn., tom. iv. p. 413.—Ib. 8vo, tom. ii. p. 158.

Brazilian Toucan, Lath. Gen. Syn., tom. i. p. 327.—Shaw, Nat. Misc., pl. 183.—Ib. Gen.

Zool., vol. viii. p. 363.—Lath. Gen. Hist., vol. ii. p. 284.

THERE is little doubt in my mind that the characters of Linnæus' *Ramphastos piscivorus* were taken from an example of this species; it is true that the throat is described as white, which would militate against such an opinion; but it is probable that the whiteness of the throat was due to the bird being out of health or to some other cause: if this supposition be correct, it will be said that the term *piscivorus* ought to be the specific appellation adopted; it is, however, so objectionable, being indicative of a habit not found to exist in any species of the family, that I have preferred employing Mr. Swainson's name, *carinatus*, so peculiarly descriptive of the remarkable form of the bill. I do not know any species of the family which is subject

to greater variety in the colouring of the bill than the present bird; some individuals having the lower mandible blue and the upper green, while in others both mandibles are of the latter colour; in some the orange spot on the sides of the bill is almost wanting; in others it is divided into a succession of small ones, or dilated into a broad band occupying nearly the whole length of the mandible; in others again the yellow culmenal mark is absent: an individual with this colouring of the bill, correctly represented in the accompanying Plate, lived during part of the years 1849 and 1850 in the Gardens of the Zoological Society. A great difference is also observable in the length of the bills of specimens from different localities, some being at least two inches shorter than others, while the depth is the same. In some examples a well-defined band of scarlet occurs on the breast, separating the yellow of the throat from the black of the abdomen, while in others this band is entirely wanting.

The native country of this bird may be said to be Mexico, over the greater portion of which, from the latitude of Vera Cruz to the Isthmus of Panama, it is I believe very generally dispersed.

In the British Museum there are several specimens with very short bills; these were brought from the Pacific side of the country; and if it should be found that none of the longer-billed birds dwell there, that circumstance would tend to confirm the opinion I have long entertained, that there is probably more than one species of green-billed Toucan.

Two examples of this bird, formerly in the possession of Prince Massena at Paris, and now in that of T. B. Wilson, Esq., of Philadelphia, present the following difference:—the longer-billed specimen has no trace of the scarlet pectoral band, while in the shorter one it is well-defined; an additional reason for believing that they constitute two species.

The bird is called *Pito canoa* by the inhabitants of Mexico.

The Plate represents the birds of the natural size, with the colouring of the bill and denuded parts taken from life.

RAMPHASTOS CARINATUS, *Swains.*

Gould, John. 1852. "Ramphastos carinatus, Swains., Keel-billed Toucan [Pl. 2]."
A monograph of the Ramphastidae, or family of toucans –.
<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322923>.

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