ANDIGENA HYPOGLAUCUS, Gould.
Grey-breasted Hill Toucan.

Specific Character.
And. mandibulis lineō basali circumdatis, maculā triangulari subbasali nigrā plagiōque viridi-faciō nigro-marginātā notātis; superioris culmine lateribusque antorums saturē sanguineis, inferiori, nisi basin versus, atrā; corpore inferiori caruleo-cano.

Crown of the head and occiput black; back, shoulders and thighs rich reddish brown; outer edges of the primaries and secondaries green, inner edges brown; rump light greenish yellow; upper tail-coverts greenish olive; tail blackish olive, the four middle feathers tipped with brown; the whole of the under surface and the collar surrounding the neck silvery grey; at the base of the upper mandible a narrow line of yellow, succeeded by a nearly triangular mark of black; an irregular mark of greenish yellow next succeeds, edged by a line of black; the culmen and the remainder of the sides dull red; the basal half of the under mandible has the yellow, black and greenish yellow colouring of the upper, but its apical half is black instead of red; feet blue.

Total length, 18 inches; bill, 4; wing, 6½; tail, 7; tarsi, 1½.


Little more is now known respecting this species than was recorded in the first edition of this work, nearly twenty years ago. The two specimens from which my figure was taken had been sent to me by my valued correspondent D. Christie, Esq., of Popayan, and I have never received a third example; the celebrated traveller M. Delattre, however, met with it in his rambles, and sent two or three specimens to Europe, one of which is in the Museum of the Jardin des Plantes at Paris, the other in the British Museum. The bill of the latter specimen is very short, while that of the example in the Jardin des Plantes is fully as long as I have represented it in the former edition of my Monograph; and, as well as the specimen in the British Museum, is in every respect richer in colour, particularly in the greenish yellow on the sides of the mandibles; the yellow of the rump too is extremely beautiful and well-defined, while the back is ornamented with a collar of bluish grey. The harlequin-like markings of the bill in this species not only render it conspicuously different from the other members of its genus, but from every other species of the family.

The Grey-breasted Araçari is an inhabitant of the mountains, and is only to be found on the highest wooded portion of the Andes, for which elevated and cold situations the full and downy texture of its plumage admirably adapts it, a feature equally characteristic of the three other species of this form since discovered. The specific name given to this bird refers to the beautiful silvery lustre which pervades the fine grey tints spread over the breast and under surface.

The figures are of the natural size.

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.5962/p.322959
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