

GENERAL ZOOLOGY,
— of —
SYSTEMATIC NATURAL HISTORY
— by —

GEORGE SHAW, M.D.F.R.S. &c.

WITH PLATES

from the first Authorities and most select specimens.

Engraved principally by

MRS. GRIFFITH.



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A V E S .

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* N.B. It is doubtful whether the tail in this species be not rather cuneated than forked, though, from the position of the feathers in the dried specimen, it appears to be the latter.

† A suspicion has been sometimes entertained that the specimen in the British Museum of this supposed species is in reality a deceptive composition. Should this suspicion be well-grounded, it must, of course, be struck out from the list of species.

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B I R D S.

ORDER

PICÆ.

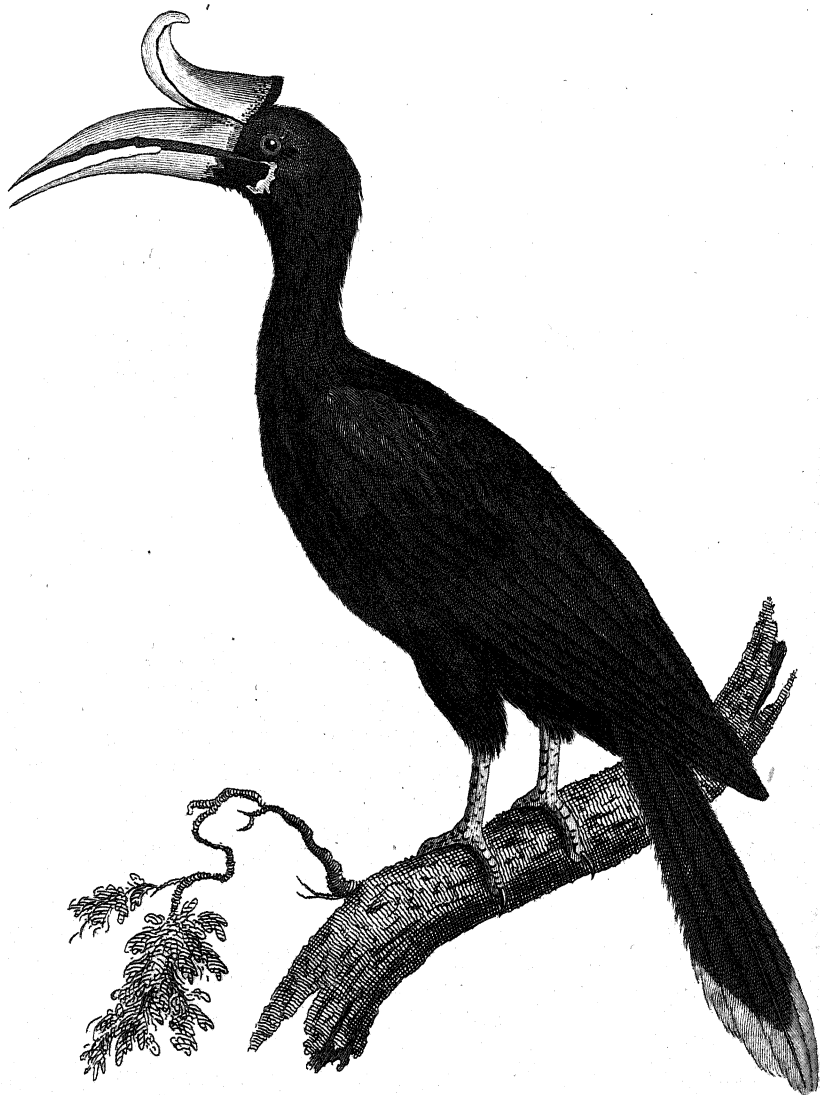
BUCEROS. HORNBILL.

Generic Character.

<i>Rostrum</i> magnum, extrorsum serratum, mandibula superiore (plerisque) appendice aucta.	<i>Bill</i> very large, serrated in an outward direction, and furnished (in most species) with a large appendix on the upper mandible.
<i>Nares</i> parvæ, rotundatæ, pone rostri basin.	<i>Nostrils</i> small, round, behind the base of the bill.
<i>Palpebræ</i> ciliis validis cinctæ.	<i>Eyelids</i> strongly ciliated.
<i>Lingua</i> brevissima, subtriangularis, plana.	<i>Tongue</i> very short, subtriangular, flat.
<i>Crura</i> valida, breviora : pedes gressorii.	<i>Legs</i> short and strong: feet gressorial.

THE birds of this remarkable genus may be considered as holding the same rank in the old continent with the Toucans in the new. Like the Toucans they are distinguished by the enormous size of their beaks, which, in most species, are rendered still more extraordinary by the addition of a

large prominence or appendix seated on the upper mandible, differing in shape in the different species. The Hornbills may be said to be both carnivorous and frugivorous, feeding not only on various berries and other vegetable substances, but also on any putrid animal substances, and not unfrequently on many of the smaller kind of living animals, as mice, birds, &c. but perhaps principally on insects. Their large bills are of much less real than apparent strength, the substance being not solid, but of a cancellated internal structure: the mandibles are serrated in an outward direction, and the serratures are often irregular, owing to the injury the bill occasionally receives during its employment in seizing on various vegetable and animal matters. The Hornbills vary much in the appearance of the bill during the different periods of their age: the process or appendix not exhibiting its genuine form till the full growth of the bird; a circumstance which, added to the difference between the males and females, often causes great difficulty in the determination of the species.



H. A. Smith sculp.

RHINOCEROS HORNBILL.