

# GENERAL ZOOLOGY,

07.

# 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.



ИЗЪ БИБЛИОТЕКИ  
Н. Д. ЛОДЫГИНА.

VOL. VII, Part II.

AVE S.

London, Printed for Kearsley, Wilkie and Robinson, Walker, Stockdale,  
Lea, Jeffry, Crosby, Longman Hurst Rees Orme & Brown, Scholey, Booth

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1812.

# GENERAL ZOOLOGY.

VOLUME VIII.—PART II.

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*BIRDS.*

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1811.

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\* The Plate No. 79, SENEGAL CREEPER, should be 29 and placed opposite page 205, in Part I.



# B I R D S.

ORDER

P I C Æ.

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## RAMPHASTOS. TOUCAN.

### *Generic Character.*

<i>Rostrum</i> maximum, inane, convexum, extrorsum serratum, apice subincurvatum.	<i>Bill</i> very large, light, hollow, convex, serrated outwards, slightly curved at the tip.
<i>Nares</i> pone rostri basin : orbitæ nudæ.	<i>Nostrils</i> behind the base of the bill : orbits naked.
<i>Lingua</i> angusta, elongata, pennacea.	<i>Tongue</i> long, narrow, feather-shaped.
<i>Pedes</i> scansorii.	<i>Feet</i> scansorial.

THE birds of this genus first became known to naturalists on the discovery of South-America, to the warmer regions of which they appear, in general, to be confined. Like the Hornbills, they are distinguished by the enormous size of their beaks, which, in some species, is nearly equal to that of the whole body. It is however of a very light substance, and, in the living bird, is even

compressible between the fingers. Both mandibles are serrated in an outward direction: the tongue is of a highly singular form, representing the appearance of a very narrow lanceolate feather, being of a somewhat horny or cartilaginous nature, and divided on each side into innumerable short and close-set fibres; in consequence of which structure it was described by some of the old writers as a real feather, supplying the place of a tongue. The orbits of the eyes are generally bare. The Toucans are supposed to feed principally on fruits; but, in a state of captivity, have been observed to eat animal food of various kinds. They deposit their eggs, which are usually two in number, in the hollows of trees, on the surface of the decayed wood.

The species at present known are not very numerous, and of those usually considered as distinct, it is not improbable that some may be mere sexual differences.



TOCO TOUCAN.

## TOCO TOUCAN.

Ramphastos Toco. *R. niger, collo antice uropygioque albis, crisso rubro, rostro rubente apice nigro.*

Black Toucan, with the fore-part of the neck and rump white, red vent, and reddish bill with black tip.

Ramphastos Toco. *R. nigricans, collo subtus uropygioque albis, orbitis lunula pectoris crissoque rubris. Lath. ind. orn.*

Le Toco. *Buff. ois.*

Toucan de Cayenne appelé Toco. *Pl. Enl. 82.*

Toco Toucan. *Lath. syn.*

THIS, which is one of the largest of the genus, measures about seventeen inches in total length, of which the bill alone measures about eight inches: it is of a pale rufous yellow colour, the base of both mandibles being black, and the tip of the upper mandible, to a considerable distance down the bill, of the same colour: the bird itself is also black, with a white throat, bounded beneath by a red bar across the breast: the rump is white, the vent-feathers red, and the legs black. It is a native of Cayenne, and seems to have been first described by Buffon.

## YELLOW-BREASTED TOUCAN.

Ramphastos Tucanus. *R. niger, collo antice flavo, fascia pectorali crissoque rubris.*

Black Toucan, with the fore-part of the neck yellow, and red pectoral bar and vent-feathers.

Ramphastos Tucanus? *R. nigricans, fascia abdominali crisso uropygioque flavis. Lin. Syst. Nat.*

Tucana Surinamensis niger, ex albo, flavo, rubro mixtus. *Petro. Gaz. t. 44. f. 13.*

Yellow-breasted Toucan. *Edw. pl. 329. Lath. syn.*

THIS, which measures about nineteen inches in length, is described by Edwards, from a living specimen brought at that time into England, "The bill, says Edwards, is very great in proportion, compressed sideways, having a sharp ridge along its upper part, and toothed on its edges: the upper mandible is green, with a long triangular spot of orange-colour on each side, and the ridge on the upper part yellow: the lower mandible is blue, with a shade of green in the middle: the point is red: it hath about five transverse faint dusky bars, which cross the joinings of the two mandibles: the nostrils are invisible, in the black line that surrounds the bill: the iris of the eye is of a fair green colour; round the eye is a broad space of naked skin, of a violet colour: the skin beneath the feathers is of a violet colour: the throat and breast are of a bright yellow; below which is a bar of scarlet feathers, which parts the yellow on the breast from the black on the belly: the covert-

feathers of the tail are white above, and those beneath of a fine red: the crown of the head, upper part of the neck, the back, wings, belly, and tail are wholly black, though on the upper side of the wings and tail it has a changeable gloss of blueish purple: the legs and feet are all of a blue or violet colour."

The above specimen was brought from Jamaica, but the bird is a native of the hotter parts of South America.

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 BRASILIAN TOUCAN.

*Ramphastos piscivorus.* *R. nigricans, fascia abdominali crissoque rubris, uropygio albo.* *Lin. Syst. Nat. Lath. syn.*

Black Toucan, with red abdominal bar and vent-feathers, and white rump.

*Xochitenacatl tertia. Raii syn.*

*Tucana Brasiliensis gutture albo.* *Briss. av.*

Toucan, or Brazilian Pye. *Edw. pl. 64.*

Brasilian Toucan. *Lath. syn.*

THIS also is faithfully described, from a living specimen, by Edwards, who compares its size to that of a common tame pigeon, and its shape to that of a magpie, but with a larger head, and a much shorter tail in proportion.

"The bill, from the forehead, or the angles of the mouth, to the point, is six inches long; its height or depth, where deepest, is something more than two inches; from side to side, near the head, one inch thick: the upper mandible is of a pale yellow greenish colour: the sides, near the toothed edges, have each a long cloud of orange-colour,

transversly barred with black or dusky lines, which pass through the divisions of the bill a little way into the sides of the lower mandible: the lower mandible is of an exceeding fine blue colour, faint towards the head, stronger towards the point: the point itself, of both upper and lower mandible, for above an inch depth, is of a fine scarlet colour: the bill is very much compressed sideways, and ends in a perfect edge along its upper part: the edge of the lower mandible is somewhat less ridged: the bill is bowed towards the point, and has a large cavity above the roof of the mouth: the nostrils are invisible, being situated pretty near together in the upper part of the bill; just in the line which passes between the bill and the forehead: the eyes are of a dark hazel-colour, encompassed round with a bare skin of a greenish yellow colour, having seams or creases running in a broken manner round the eye, and, reaching to the bill, there passes all round the basis of it a narrow black line: the top of the head, upper side of the neck, back, wings, belly, thighs, and tail, are of a black colour, the wings only having a shining changeable lustre: the sides of the head, throat, and breast, are white, or rather cream-colour; and between the white on the breast and the black belly, there is a crescent of fine red, whose horns point upwards on the sides, and this is softened both above and beneath into the colours it joins with: the rump, or coverts on the upper side of the tail, are white: the feathers beyond the vent, and those that cover the under side of the tail, are of a pale red: the