

BIOLOGIA CENTRALI-AMERICANA.

ZOOLOGIA.

Class AVES.

Subclass AVES CARINATÆ.

Order PASSERES.

Suborder OLIGOMYODÆ.

Fam. OXYRHAMPHIDÆ.

OXYRHAMPHUS.

Oxyrhamphus, Strickland, Ann. & Mag. N. H. vi. p. 420 (1841); Sci. Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. xiv. p. 280.

Oxyrhynchus, Temminck, Pl. Col. livr. 21, 1823 (nec Leach).

Oxyruncus, Temminck, Anal. du Syst. gén. d'Orn. in Man. d'Orn. ed. 2, i. p. lxxx (1820).

Oxyrhamphus is a genus of obscure affinities and its position cannot be satisfactorily determined until the internal structure of one of the species has been carefully studied. From an examination of its external characters it has been usually placed by recent authors with the Dendrocolaptidæ or as an independent Family. Under our present knowledge the latter position seems the most convenient.

The coloration of the plumage of *Oxyrhamphus* recalls that of *Phibalura*, a genus of Cotingidæ, but the form of the bill has no resemblance to that of *Phibalura* nor has its plumage anything in common with any recognized member of the Dendrocolaptidæ.

The bill of *O. frater* (and of both the other species) is acute, the culmen slightly curved, and the tomia nearly straight, with a small angle near the commissure; the nostrils are elongated open slits along the lower edge of the nasal fossa and have an operculum thickened along its lower edge along the upper margin. The rictal bristles are very short. The wings have ten primaries, of which the second, third, and fourth are the longest, the first being a little longer than the fifth and rather more pointed. The barbs of the central portion of the outer web of the outermost primary, in the male, have their extremities destitute of barbules, and these bare points turned rather