and most characteristic species of the genus, *R. jacapa*, is not a member of our bird-fauna.

All the species are inhabitants of the hottest forests, on the outskirts of which they live. In Guatemala *R. passerinii* occurs only in such places, and hardly extends its range into the mountains above 1200 to 1500 feet.

The bill of *Rhamphocelus* is its chief peculiarity, the base of the mandible on either side being swollen in a peculiar way so as to project conspicuously beyond the plumage; the nasal feathers project forwards so as almost to cover the nostrils; these are open and situated at the end of the fossa. The plumage generally is very soft, and scarlet of various shades enters largely into its coloration. This, in the case of *R. icteronotus*, is replaced by clear yellow. The wings are short and rounded, the fourth primary being slightly the longest. The tail is rounded, and the tarsi and feet rather feeble.

1. **Rhamphocelus passerinii.** (Tab. XVIII. fig. 1.)


*Ramphopis flaminigerus*, Baird, Stansbury’s Exp. to Gt. Salt Lake, App. p. 36\(^16\).

Velutino-niger, dorso toto postico rubro-coceineo, plumis hujus partis ad basim albis; rostro plumbo; pedibus obscure fusis. Long. tota 6-5, ale 3-1, caudae 2-9, rostri a rictu 0-7, tarsi 0-9.

♀ flavo-brunneo olivascens, dorso postico brunnescenti-flavo, capite undique et gula fusaceis; alis intus et cauda nigricantibus. (Deser. maris et feminæ ex Choctum, Guatemala. Mus. nostr.)

**Hab.** British Honduras, Belize river (O. S.), Belize (Blancaneaux); Guatemala, Choctum, Yzabal (O. S. & F. D. G.), Cahabon (Skinner 4), Tucuru (Sarg); Honduras, Atlantic coast (Taylor 9), Omoa (Leyland 8), San Pedro (G. M. Whitley 7); Nicaragua, Mosquito coast (Wickham 6), Chontales (Belt 15), Greytown (Holland 11); Costa Rica, Angostura and San Carlos (v. Frantzius 13, Carmilo 12), Navarro (v. Frantzius 13, Cooper 12), Orosi, Sarapiqui, Tucuririqui (v. Frantzius 13), Barranca (Arcé); Panama, Chiriqui (Bridges 3), David (Hicks 10), Volcan de Chiriqui, Bugaba 14, Vivala, Mina de Chorcha 14 (Arcé).

The original specimens of this *Rhamphocelus* described by Bonaparte were supposed to have come either from Mexico or Cuba 1, but it is now known that neither country can claim it as an inhabitant. In the tropical forests of Eastern Guatemala it is common, and we have traced it northwards to the Belize river in British Honduras, which seems to be nearly its extreme northern limit. In the forest country north of Coban in Vera Paz and thence to the shores of the lake of Yzabal *R. passerinii* is abundant, and no birds shows to such advantage as the male as he flies in the openings of the forest, the brilliant scarlet of his back being a most conspicuous object. We