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JABIRU: *Jabiru mycteria* of South America (not, as stated by Newton with a wrongly titled figure, *Mycteria americana*); in the Old World the name is sometimes applied to the Saddlebill *Ephipporhynchus senegalensis* or the Blacknecked Stork *Xenorhynchus asiaticus*. For all these species of Ciconiidae see STORK.

JACAMAR: substantive name of species of Galbulidae (Piciformes, suborder Galbulae); in the plural, general term for the family. This consists of 5 genera and about 15 species of small or medium-sized birds (5-11 inches long) confined to the wooded portions of continental tropical America, chiefly at low altitudes. Jacamars have long, pointed, usually slender bills. Their legs are short, and in four-toed species two toes are directed backwards; but in the genus *Jacamaralcyon* only three toes are present, the inner hind toe having been lost. The more typical species have glittering metallic plumage and, with their long thin bills, remind one of overgrown hummingbirds (Trochilidae). Perhaps even more than hummingbirds, they seem charged with intense vitality. They are among the most exciting of all birds to meet.

A widespread and familiar member of the family is the Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbula ruficauda*, which ranges from southern Mexico to Ecuador, Brazil, and Trinidad. The upper plumage, including the wings and central feathers of the long tail, is glittering metallic green, over which play golden, coppery, and bronzy glints; there is a broad green band across the chest, separating the white throat from the rufous-tawny of the posterior under parts and the outer tail feathers. The female differs from the male only in having the throat pale buff instead of white. In both sexes, the long sharp bill is black.

The largest member of the family is the Great Jacamar *Jacamerops aurea*, a long-tailed bird (in all nearly a foot in length) ranging from Costa Rica to the Amazon valley. In the male, the top of the head is bright metallic green, which merges into rich

metallic golden or reddish bronze on the back and shoulders, this in turn becoming bright golden-green on the rump and central tail feathers. The outer feathers of the tail are violet-blue. The sides of the head and the upper throat are metallic green, the lower throat is pure white, and the remaining under plumage is rufous-tawny. The female is like the male except that her lower throat is tawny like the rest of the ventral surface. The bill, which is only moderately long and slightly curved, is black.

A less graceful and glittering representative of the family is the White-eared Jacamar *Galbalcyrrhynchus leucotis* of Amazonia. Its plumage is largely chestnut and, as the name implies, there is a white patch behind each eye. A long, thick, almost white bill and a short tail give it a top-heavy aspect.

Jacamars appear to be wholly insectivorous and, at least in the best known genus, *Galbula*, their prey is captured on the wing. The bird rests on an exposed perch, turning its head from side to side, until it espies a suitable flying insect; this it then overtakes by means of a rapid sally, making a fine display, especially if the victim is a large, brightly coloured butterfly or a wide-winged dragonfly. Morphos and large swallow-tails *Papilio*, which most flycatching birds eschew, are favourite fare of the jacamars. With the victim fluttering in its slender bill, the captor returns to its perch, against which it beats the insect long and loudly until the brilliant wings flutter earthward, after which the body is eaten. Despite a predilection for large and showy insects, jacamars capture many that are small and inconspicuous.

Although jacamars are closely related to the puff-birds (Bucconidae), their loquacity contrasts with the latter's taciturnity no less than their graceful slenderness with the puffbirds' chunkiness. The Rufous-tailed Jacamar is a noisy bird, and its sharp calls, sounding afar through the woodland, suggest that it lives at a high pitch of excitement. When mated birds are together, and especially when two