

P R E F A C E.

THE intent of the following sheets is to give, as far as may be, a concise account of all the Birds hitherto known; nothing having been done in this way, as a general work, in the English language, of late years.

In other countries, however, it has been paid more attention to; witness that valuable work of *M. Brisson*, who has brought down his account to the year 1760*, when he published his *Ornithology*.

That great and able Naturalist *M. de Buffon*, is likewise proceeding fast with a grand work† on the same subject, which, when finished on the extensive plan that he has chalked out for himself, will do him much honour. Of this seven volumes are already published, and we are promised two others in a very short time, which are intended to close the undertaking.

In this work of *M. de Buffon*, not only every thing which has been treated of before is properly noticed, and the many contra-

* This means only the edition in quarto; for there is another edition in octavo, published in 1763, which contains some few additions. Whoever has perused this work, will be fully convinced of the accuracy and precision with which this gentleman has treated the subject throughout; and it is but justice here to acknowledge the liberty we have taken with these descriptions, in respect to such Birds as have not fallen under our inspection.

† *Histoire naturelle des Oiseaux.*