

CONCLUSION.



WE here close our *General History of Birds*, with the satisfaction of experiencing that it has been favourably received during its progress.

In a work of this extent, some errors must be unavoidable; among which may be remarked a mistake in the first volume, p. 32, in respect to what is called New-Holland Vulture. A drawing of this was, many years since, communicated by our late friend, Gen. Davies, under that appellation, but the source he took it from cannot now be known. It should appear, that the want of feathers on the head and neck had induced the General to suppose it a Vulture; yet the shape of the bill and claws scarcely satisfied us that it belonged to that Genus, and it is but very lately that our doubts have been confirmed, through the kindness of Lord Stanley, who put into our hands a specimen for examination. In respect to the plate given of this bird, the outline and colour are sufficiently correct, though the bill and claws are not equally so; the former is too long, and the upper mandible should be more curved, approaching to that of the Gallinaceous tribe; the claws should be shorter; but what more pointedly determines it not to belong to the Vulture is the tail, which consists of eighteen feathers, whereas the number in the Vulture is never more than twelve; in shape too it is singular, the feathers being decumbent, or placed declining over each other, as in the common Poultry Hen, and the tail itself also seems to have been carried in an erect situation; hence it can scarcely be reconciled to any Genus yet known. But as it clearly belongs to the Gallinaceans order, it might have place after the *Menura*, and form a Genus by the name of *Alectura*, unless one more appropriate may be found, on account of its manners, which at present are unknown.