

Courier, Pratincole, and Penguin; and in the present work the Secretary, Honey-eater, Barbican, Concal, Malkoha, Emeu, Erody, and Finfoot. To go further than this, would, perhaps, entangle the reader, and too much load his memory, to little purpose; for though it may be objected, that any particular bird may not answer exactly to the definition of a genus, in every minute point, yet, if it be found to coincide in most of the characters, it ought to be admitted, rather than to form a new genus for it; especially, if such bird is one already known and received; otherwise the reader will have to search for it under a disguise, and not readily find what he wants.

It will be observed, in many cases, that birds are said to be in various cabinets, not now in existence—but it must be remembered, that at the time of first penning the Synopsis, and long after, the Leverian Museum was in full preservation. Many subjects also, referred to in the British Museum, have since fallen into decay; and the very numerous and choice articles then in Mr. Bullock's noble collection are now dispersed. The reader has, therefore, to rely on the author only for the descriptions.

To a cursory observer it may appear, that a full description of any bird, suspected to be simply a variety of a species already known, was unnecessary; but it has been judged right to detail the plumage, that in case any person should meet with a specimen similar in colour, and answering to the description, he may be less at a loss to refer it to the species it belongs to; and the reader will not, we presume, be displeased to find the numerous references to the authors who have mentioned the respective species, more especially those in which there