

It is very unfortunate for the promotion of Natural History, that so many and various Systems in Ornithology have of late years been attempted, and of course each builder of a new one flatters himself that he has done service to science, by bringing the productions of nature under some restrictions; but the infinite variety and multitude of which it consists, will not be so fettered; and how far the elaborately multiplying of Genera will truly answer the end of the Naturalist, we have yet to learn. In respect to ourselves, having in the Synopsis formed a plan, which has been in general understood, and not disapproved of, it behoves us to continue the same arrangement, as near as may be, in the present publication. We cannot object to those who come after us acting according to their own ideas, but hope, that though at present they differ widely one from the other, each preferring his own method, they may unite in sentiment, and together form one system, on such a basis as to be a standard for future generations.

In a work like the present, the reader may expect to find a full account of the nature of the feathered creation; but this has been already so sufficiently done to our hands by others, as to render it unnecessary to enlarge on it in this place. On this head we have to recommend the perusal of the elaborate and elegant works of the Count de Buffon. This matter has also been most amply taken up by M. Daudin, in his *Traité d'Ornithologie*, and will fully merit the reader's attention.

The late Mr. Pennant, likewise, has so scientifically treated the subject in his *Genera of Birds*, as to render any further observation on this point unnecessary: and I ought not to omit, that the Intro-