
THE EAGLE.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE COMMON EAGLE.

By Sonnini.

ALMOST all naturalists who have written upon birds have made two distinct species of the brown and black eagle: some, indeed, have considered them only as the male and female of the same species, and, in the eyes of Buffon they appeared to be simple varieties. Although this opinion (adopted by a more recent ornithologist, Daudin) is very probable, it is not, however, proved. The question does not appear to me to be quite decided, and we need a greater number of observations for that purpose than are yet within our reach. It is not, in fact, by a minute comparison of the dead carcasses of birds, nor by a scrupulous indication of their colours, that we can hope to trace with a steady hand the line of demarcation which separates the species. Age, sex, season, all produce various changes
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