

sublime views and results of nature, who, always great, always majestic, has developed an immense variety of combinations, and shed all the lustre of ornament upon the most brilliant class of animals.

It is upon this principle that I am now going to state the reasons which lead me to doubt the identity of species of the brown and black eagle, until, more acquainted with their nature, we shall know the differences which exist between the male and female of the common eagle, and between the young bird and the one more advanced in age. Should this future knowledge prove that my opinion is not founded, this discussion will not, however, be useless, for it contains some interesting details upon the common eagle, whose habits seem not to have been well known to Buffon; and these scattered facts form, in the strictest sense of the word, the science of natural history.

If we may rely upon difference of colour for the distinction of species among birds, the brown eagle will not, of course, be of the same species as the black. In fact, there exist between these two birds, discrepancies, which I shall enumerate.

The brown eagle has the top of the head and the neck approaching to red: these parts
are