

sure, in the dimensions of these two birds, the black eagle not being so large as the brown.

Whatever there may be of these discrepancies, upon which observation alone can decide, I shall proceed to the natural habits of these two eagles, of which we do not know enough to speak of them separately; and I shall relate what is known of them, using the denomination of *common eagle*, under which head Buffon has classed them.

These eagles are, in fact, more common than the great eagle, or the royal eagle. They live upon mountains, whence they descend into the plains during winter: they retire into forests, and it is not uncommon to take them with springes. They are seen every winter in the forests of Orleans and Fontainbleau. They choose the steepest rocks and loftiest trees, in which to build their nests, which are very large; some of them have been found more than five feet square in the mountains of Auvergne. Their eggs are of a deep iron grey, with stripes of a darker colour.

The species of the common eagle is also found in hot countries. Poiret saw them in Barbary, in the plains of which, they are frequently to be met with, and where they utter a shrill and piercing cry; they attack every
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