

The flight of the butcher bird is similar to that of the magpye, by successive dartings and undulations, which arise from its wings, when extended, being round and presenting but a small surface. This difficulty of flight obliges the bird to endeavour to raise itself in the air over its prey, so that it may pounce upon it and strike it to the earth, where it instantly seizes and destroys it. It is in this manner that the butcher bird succeeds in seizing small birds. Falconers have availed themselves of its courage and address, and have sometimes reared it for artificial purposes. Turnerus relates that Francis I. was accustomed to hunt with a tame butcher bird, that spoke and came back upon the hand; hunters also have made use of the butcher bird to discover the approach of a sparrowhawk; the former, on such an occasion, never failing to utter a peculiar cry, and in Sweden they are much employed for this purpose. When the butcher bird has taken a bird, it opens the skull and eats the brains, which forms one of its peculiarly delicious morsels. It makes its nest in the month of May, in the recesses of solitary forests, and sometimes also in tufted and spiny hedges: it employs for this purpose hay, carefully chosen, and very