

forms an exception. Levaillant, who saw many of these birds in Africa, and in all seasons, never heard it utter any cry or attempt any note : and this particularity is sufficiently remarkable to form the basis of its denomination. It is very common in the forests of Anteniquoi, and also in many parts of the interior of southern Africa, but more particularly in those regions covered with forests.

This bird is a little larger than the common red butcher bird ; it is a fine black on the upper part of the body, and white on the under. It has a white stripe on the wings, and a border of the same colour on the exterior side of the lateral quill feathers of the tail. The beak is horn colour, and the iris of the eyes brown ; the feet are of a clear brown, and the claws black. The female is something smaller than the male, and the colours of her plumage are less pure and less strongly marked. These birds live in pairs, and feed on insects. It is in the month of November that they betake themselves to the pleasing care of propagating their species. Their nest, which they build upon trees, is constructed with a great deal of art ; they employ for this purpose small flexible branches, and they line it with a soft thick bed of hair.