

thirst for blood, which consume him. Like those harpies which ancient mythology has painted, the parasitical kite has acquired this name only from the importunate audacity with which he comes to snatch the nourishment which man has prepared for himself. He darts even, near the margin of rivers, upon fish which he perceives while in the air: all animal prey is in fact acceptable to him. Levaillant affirms "that the passage of these birds in the same countries is always at the same hour nearly; it appears to be a custom peculiar to this African and to the European kite." He says that he has often verified this observation.

This bird is about the size of our *hen-hARRIER*; its eyes are of a hazel colour, and its beak is yellow as well as its feet: a tawny colour spreads itself over the upper parts of the body, with shades rather browner towards the occiput and back; the throat is of a whitish colour. The belly, the legs, and the under part of the tail are of a fine mahogany colour, variegated with other tints. The large quill feathers of the wings approach towards a blackish brown, which is somewhat lighter on the smaller quill feathers. The tail is rather long and sloping; it has some transversal stripes