

place. They lay two or three eggs, which the father and mother alternately sit upon, and they watch over their youthful family with extreme care.

These animals have a peculiar smell, a sickly, insipid, nauseous odour: this is also observable in the greater part of birds who place their nests in close, confined holes: perhaps this smell may arise from their nourishment, or from a particular secretion of some hitherto undiscovered glands.

It appears that some European species of nocturnal birds are not unknown in the new continent, above all in the southern regions: they are more common however, in cold and temperate countries, and the greater part of them also have their feet covered with feathers.

Their manner of hunting is a sort of ambuscade: they dart, unexpectedly on their prey, like lions, tygers, and lynxes; they do not pursue them. There is a very great analogy between the habits of these birds and those of quadrupeds, and their conformation approximates them still more. Their cat-like head, their large eyes capable of nocturnal vision, their crooked claws, and their short
intestines,