

calls it the celebrated pheasant of Sumatra, and for beauty of plumage, he places it far above all other birds; but though Marsden declares that there is no exaggeration in what he says, yet it is easy to see, from the description given above, that the argus, though of a plumage agreeably variegated, is less rich in colours than many other birds, and even than species of the same genus.

This bird is very fierce and difficult to keep alive for any length of time, after it has been taken in the woods; it never survives its captivity more than a month. Its eyes are dazzled by a strong light, and it remains quiet and drooping while exposed to it; but it delights in shade. It is a noisy bird like the peacock, but its flesh is very savoury, and has the same taste as that of the common pheasant.