

projecting forwards; the toes and the nails crooked; ten quill feathers in the tail, which is as long as the whole body, and sloped.

“ This magpie,” says Sonnerat, “ is, in appearance, like the European blackbird; the head is brown; the neck of the same colour, but much clearer; the breast and the belly are of a reddish white; the back and the rump are of a yellowish red; the small feathers of the wings are of a dirty red colour; the shortest of the large ones are grey on the external side, and brown on the internal; the largest are entirely of a brownish black; the first two feathers of the tail, or the longest, are grey, terminated by a transversal brown stripe; the lateral ones are grey, as far as one half, brown the rest of their length, and terminated by a transversal white stripe; the iris is of a reddish yellow colour; the beak and the feet are black.”

It appears that this species of magpie is diffused over a vast extent of country; for Levaillant, who has also described it, saw one in a cargo of birds, arriving from Bengal.