

tually indulging in a waspish and petulant irritability towards those whose names fame has consecrated for ever.

It is not until he has vented freely a deal of abuse upon those naturalists who have not gone into Africa to examine the rocar in its wild state, that Levaillant begins to give the history of this species of blackbird, which is one of his numerous and interesting discoveries in ornithology. This bird has a great affinity with the rock blackbird, not only in its external characters, but also in its natural habitudes. It establishes its residence in the midst of rocks, in the most rugged and desolate spots; it is very fierce and very wild, and when one approaches near enough to take aim with a musquet, the pains which we have taken are often lost, for the bird, placing itself upon the projecting points of the rock, overhanging some precipice, falls into it, and baffles the hunter in his expectation of his prey. Hence this species, which is very common in nature, is very rare in our collections.

Like the rock blackbird of Europe, the rocar hides its nests in the holes of the most inaccessible rocks; the female lays five eggs, never more, and sometimes less. Its note is as agreeable as the rock blackbird of Europe,
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