

and its voice, which is soft and flexible, easily appropriates to itself the song of all the birds within its hearing. This striking conformity in the manners of these two birds is accompanied with a very considerable resemblance in the colours of their plumage; the African one differs from ours only in having all the under part of the body from the breast to the tail of a lively red colour, as well as the rump; the iris of the eyes is of a reddish brown. Such a similitude between birds of distant countries made Levaillant suspect that they did not belong to distinct species; and though very reserved upon the supposed influence of climate in these particulars, he did not hesitate to consider the rocar as the same bird as our rock blackbird, having simply undergone some modifications from the change of situation. But one thing checked him, and seems to forbid our uniting these two blackbirds in one species, viz. the difference of certain exterior formations, upon which the variation of climate has less influence than upon the colours of the plumage. In fact, the length of the wings presents a remarkable disparity. When they are folded they extend nearly to the extremity of the tail of the rock blackbird, while in the rocar they do not project above