

middle quill feathers of the tail, which have no border. The beak and the feet are of a blackish brown.

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#### THE BLACKBIRD OF THE SAVANNAHS.

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SONNINI had communicated a description of this bird (which no naturalist had hitherto described) to Guenau de Montbeillard, towards the end of the year 1775; but his history of the blackbird, was at that time published\*, and he could therefore make

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\* The general reader may, perhaps, require to be informed, that Buffon, while employed in that part of his natural history which embraced ornithology for its subject, was taken ill, and laboured under a severe indisposition for nearly two years. Being then at an advanced period of life, two years lost, in the prosecution of such a vast design as his natural history, were a serious consideration; and being himself particularly anxious to complete the mineralogical part, about which he confesses himself to be more conversant, and besides, more attached to the study, he engaged Guenau de Montbeillard to carry on the ornithological part, and their respective labours are distinctly noticed in Sonnini's edition of Buffon. *Trans.*