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THE STARLING OF DAOURIA.

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IN the northern countries of Asia, between the Onon and Argoun rivers, which bathe the regions of southern Daouria, Pallas met with a species of starling that had a most superb plumage, and which appears to be confined to this part of Siberia, for this learned traveller has not met with it in any other part.

This bird keeps principally among willows, where it eats insects, and even the leaves of certain plants. The female lays her eggs in the holes of rocks, and sometimes in the nests of sparrows, under the roofs in villages; the eggs are of a deep green colour. In other respects it has all the habits of a common starling, but it differs greatly from it in the splendour of its plumage. The crown of the head, and the back between the wings, are of a beautiful blackish violet colour; green shades appear upon the black quill feathers of the wings and tail, and they derive an additional lustre from two white stripes. The rest of the plu-

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