

mage is of a cinereous white. The total length of the bird is somewhat more than six inches; its tail is a little forked, and its beak is black. The colours of the plumage of the female are not so bright; she is generally of a dirty cinereous white colour; her back is brown; the wings and tail are black, but without any lustre or shadings of green.

Pallas has described the starling of Daouria in two different works, and under two different names; first, in the fourth volume of his *Travels in Russia*, and afterwards more minutely in the *Acts of the Academy at Stockholm*, for the year 1778. It might be supposed that these two descriptions are in fact the descriptions of two distinct birds, but if they be accurately and carefully collated, they will be found to be the same.

This may teach us a useful lesson in natural history, viz. that it is impossible to ground certain facts upon the mere descriptions of external particulars. It is pretty certain, that were a bird to be given to three different naturalists, and each of them required to produce a description of the colour of its plumage, &c. every one would differ more or less. There is, in fact, nothing so fallacious as colours, unless such as are simple and uniform;