

Although it has a very remarkable curvature in the upper chap, yet it differs from that of the butcher bird by its straight form, and by the flatness of its sides. Other characteristics likewise, which are easily perceivable, remove it from the genus of butcher birds. A large eyelid hangs round the eye; the base of the beak, and the apertures of the nostrils are entirely covered with the feathers of the forehead, which project forwards; the head is ornamented with a tuft of soft feathers which fall backwards; the quill feathers of the tail are cut in a square form at their extremity, and the wings, when folded, reach to about one half of their length; all which characters are distinct from those that belong to the butcher bird.

“ I am even persuaded,” adds Levaillant, “ that, in its manners, the geoffroy differs greatly from birds of this last species; and, from the accounts which I have received, and from the examinations which I have made upon different birds that have passed under my notice, I do not think I am deceived in the opinion that they live in troops like the starling, that they feed in the same manner, and seek for their subsistence in humid earth, into which they probably plunge their beaks; and  
this