

this last opinion has arisen from the circumstance of my having always found upon the beak of all the individuals that I have seen, a sort of earthy incrustation."

From these remarks by an able and experienced observer, it seems allowable to place the geoffroy among the starlings rather than among the butcher birds, for it has striking and obvious affinities with the former, and but slight and dubious ones with the latter. With regard to the colours of its plumage, Levaillant thus describes them :

" The feathers near the root of the beak, as well as the tuft and the cheeks, are of a pure white. The head, and the feathers which surround the ears are black, approaching to an iron grey colour. The lower part of the neck behind, the throat, the front part of the neck, the breast, the sides, the belly, and the covert feathers on the inside of the wings, are of a snowy white colour. The scapulary feathers and the wings are black, which, in a certain light, presents a bluish tinge. A broad white stripe, which forms part of the large covert feathers of the wings, and of the edges of the longer scapulary ones, as well as the last quill feathers nearest to the body, crosses the wing longitudinally. The two lateral
ones