
THE KING FISHER.

THE KING FISHER OF MALIMBO.

THIS bird has a thick, strong beak. It is nine inches and a half in length; the beak alone is two and a half, and ten inches in diameter at its basis. The tail is three inches, and the wings, when folded, reach to about the middle of its length. The wings, from tip to tip, when extended, are ten inches. The length of the tarsus is seven lines, that of the middle toe, eleven, that of the exterior one, nine, and that of the interior, six and a half.

The similarity in the form of the beak, and some other traits of affinity, at first led Sonnini to think that this was the same as the large beaked king fisher, which is also found towards the south of Africa; but, comparing them attentively together, it was evident that they were distinct species; for, besides, the difference of of size (the present one being much smaller) there