

smaller than those of the *tantalus ibis* of naturalists; that they were but very little larger than those of the curlew; that the beak resembled that of the latter, only being somewhat shorter in proportion to its thickness, and not at all similar to that of the *tantalus*; in fact, that its plumage was white, with the plumes of the wing marked with black, as stated by the ancients.

We were then convinced that the bird embalmed by the ancient Egyptians was certainly not the *tantalus ibis* of naturalists; that it was smaller, and that it must be of the curlew genus.

We learnt, after some research, that the ibis mummies opened before by other naturalists were similar to our own. Buffon expressly says, that he had examined many; that the birds they contained had the beak and size of curlews, and yet he blindly follows Perrault, in taking the *tantalus* of Africa for the ibis.

One of these mummies opened by Buffon is still in the Musuem, and is similar to those which we have opened.

Dr. Shaw in the supplement to his travels (fol. edit. Oxford, 1746, plate 5, pp. 64 to 66,) describes and depicts with care the bones of a similar mummy, the beak, he says, was six English inches in length, like that of the curlew, &c. In a word, his account exactly tallies with our own examination.

Caylus (*Recueil d'Antiquitiés*, vol. vi. pl. 11, fig. 1,) represents the mummy ibis, as only one foot seven inches high, including its bandages, although he expressly says, that the bird was then placed on its feet, with the head erect, and that no part of it had been bent in the embalming.

Hasselquist, who took a small black and white