

We see by this table that the ibis of Thebes was larger than our curlew; that one of the ibises of Saccara was of the medium size between that of Thebes and our curlew; and that the other was smaller than this latter bird. We observe also, that the different parts of the body of the ibis have not the same proportions to each other as those of the curlew have. The beak of the former, for instance, is remarkably shorter, although all the other parts are larger, &c.

Yet these differences of proportion do not go beyond what may distinguish the species of the same genus; the form and character which are to be considered as generic, are precisely similar.

The true ibis, then, must be sought no longer amongst these tall tantali with a sharp beak, but amongst the curlews; and here we should note that by the word *curlew* (*courlis*) we do not mean the artificial genus formed by Latham and Gmelin, of all long-shanked (*echaissiers*) birds, with a beak curved downwards, and a head devoid of plumage, whether the beak be rounded or sharp,—but a natural genus, which we shall call *numenius*, and which will include all the long-shanked birds with beaks curved downwards, soft and rounded, whether their head be devoid of, or covered with, plumage. It is the *curlew* genus, such as Buffon has imagined it. (1)

A glance over the collection of birds in the king's cabinet enables us to recognise a species which has not been yet either named or described by authors of systems, except perhaps Mr. Latham, and

(1) We have definitely established this genus in our 'Regne Animal,' vol. i. p. 483, and it appears to have been adopted by naturalists.