

genus numenius, or curlew, of the sub-genus ibis, which has only hitherto been described by Bruce under the name of *abouhannes*. I name it NUMENIUS IBIS, *albus, capite et collo adulti nudis, remigium apicibus, rostro et pedibus nigris, remigibus secundariis elongatis nigro violaceis*.

4th. The black ibis of the ancients is probably the bird known in Europe under the name of *green curlew*, or the *scolopax falcinellus* of Linnæus; it also belongs to the genus of curlews and to the sub-genus of ibises.

5th. The tantalus ibis of Linnæus, in the real state of synonymy, includes four species of these different genera, viz.

1. A tantalus, the ibis of Perrault and Buffon.

2. An ardea, the ibis of Hasselquist.

3 and 4. Two numenii, the ibis of Belon and the ox-bird of Shaw.

We may judge by this example, and by many others, of the state in which this worst *Systema Naturæ* still remains, which it would be so important to cleanse gradually of the errors which throng it, and with which it appears continually to be loaded, by adding characters and synonyms and species, without just selection or competent judgment.

The general conclusion of my labour is, that the ibis still exists in Egypt as it did in the time of the Pharoahs, and that it is to the error of naturalists we are indebted for the belief so long prevalent, that the real species was lost or altered in its form.