

which I shall mention farther on, that that bird resembles the stork in size and figure. He mentions his having been informed that white and black ones occurred in abundance on the edges of the Nile ; but it is evident from his very expressions, that he did not believe it had been seen there \*.

Shaw says of the ibis,† that it is at the present day excessively rare, and that he has never seen it. His *Emseesy*, or ox-bird, which Gmelin very improperly refers to the Tantalus Ibis, is of the size of the curlew, with the body white, and the beak and feet red. It frequents the meadows, where it follows the cattle ; its flesh is not well tasted, and corrupts quickly. It is easy to see that this is not the Tantalus, and still less the Ibis of the ancients.

Hasselquist was not acquainted with the white Ibis nor with the black one ; his *Ardea Ibis* is a small heron, which has the beak straight. Linnaeus had acted very properly in placing it among the herons, in his tenth edition ; but he erred, as I have said, in transporting it afterwards as a synonym to the genus *Tantalus*.

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\* Rer. Ægypt. lib. iv. cap. i. t. i. p. 199 of the Leyden Edition.

† See the French Translation, vol. ii. p. 167.