

# NATURAL HISTORY

OF ALL THE MOST REMARKABLE

**Quadrupeds, Birds, Fishes, Reptiles & Insects,**

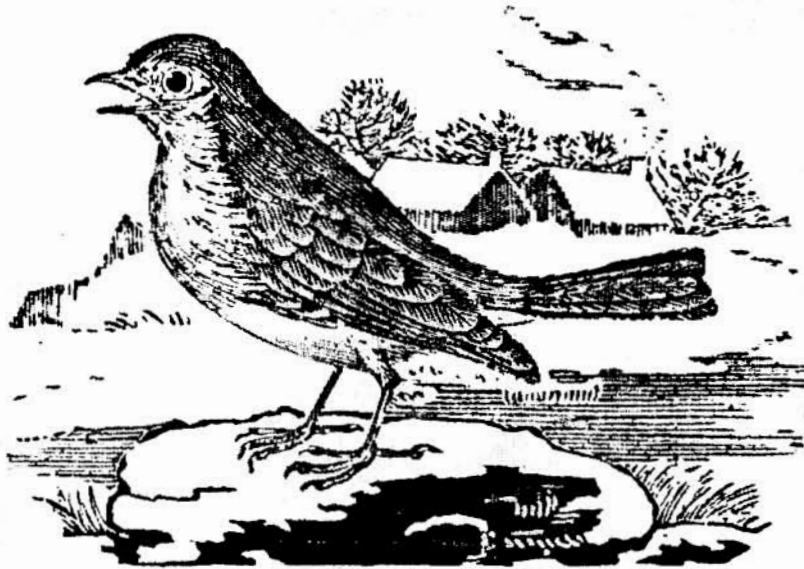
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BUFFON, GOLDSMITH, CUVIER,

AND OTHER EMINENT NATURALISTS,

BY C. MACKENZIE, Esq.

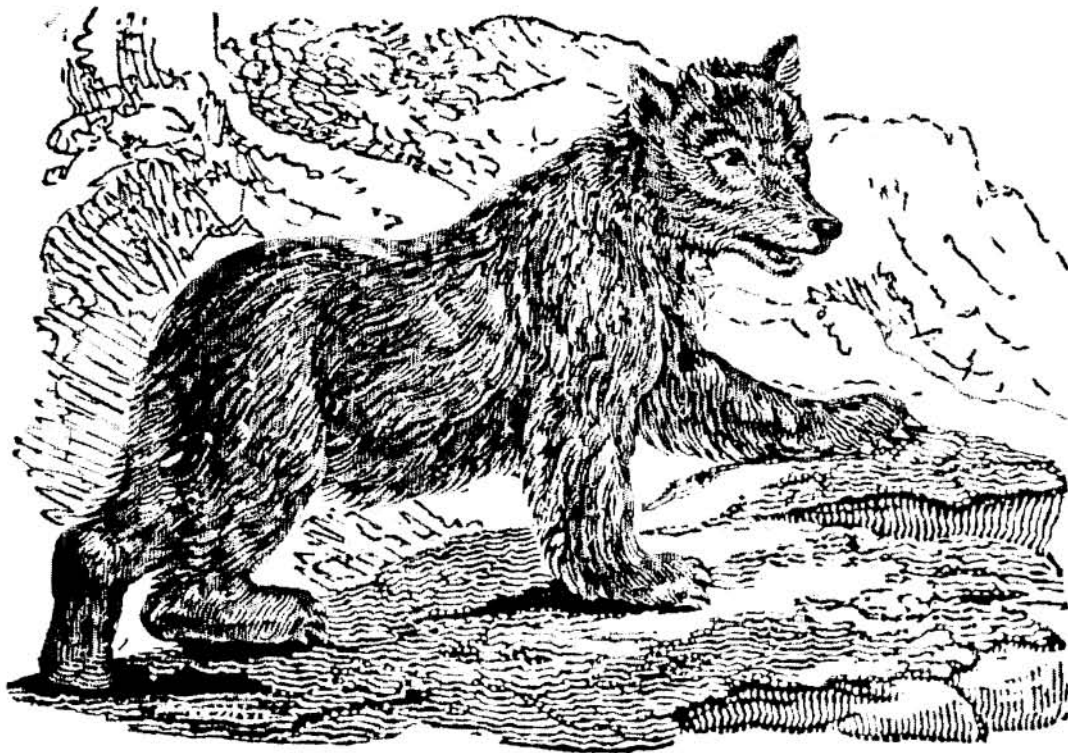
WITH UPWARDS OF ONE HUNDRED BEAUTIFUL CUTS.



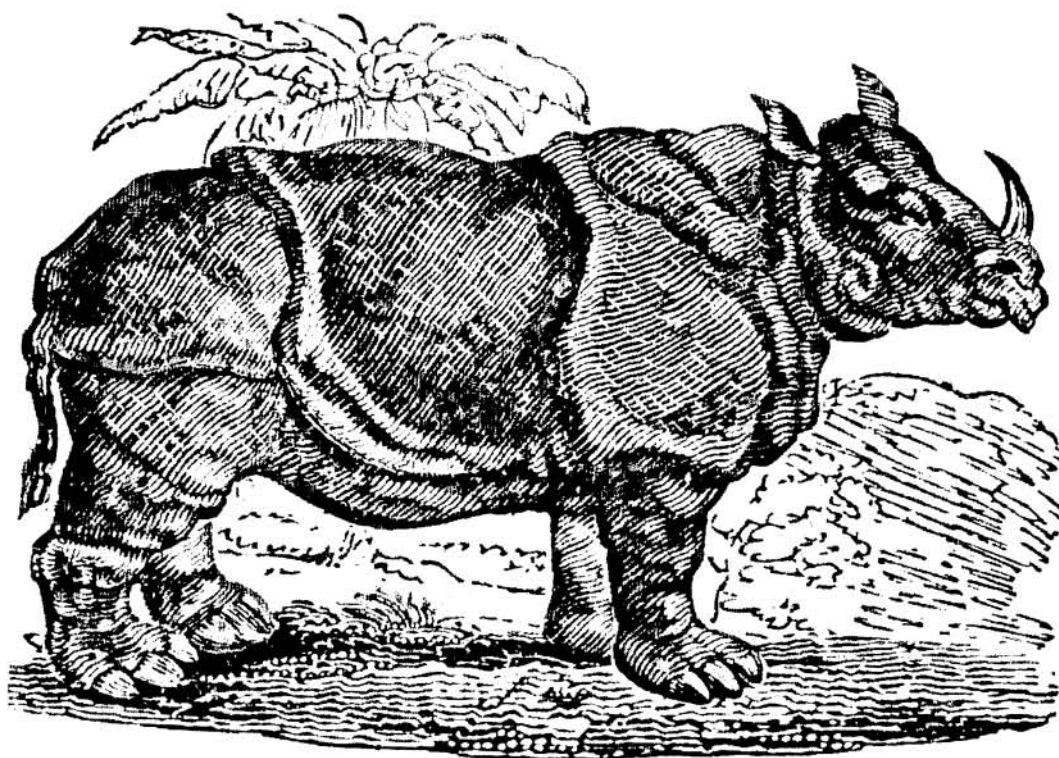
The Robin.—*Winter.*

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AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.



*Brown Bear.*



*Rhinoceros.*

## THE RHINOCEROS.

OF this animal there are two varieties, one with a single, the other with two horns on its snout. Next to the elephant, it is the most powerful of quadrupeds, and the most bulky if we except the hippopotamus. Its length is commonly twelve feet, its height six or seven, and its circumference is nearly equal to its length.

Except in strength, however, nature has not endowed the Rhinoceros with any qualities that exalt it above the ordinary rank of quadrupeds; its principal resources consist in its moveable lip, and the offensive weapon on its nose, which is peculiar to the kind. This is indeed a very formidable instrument of annoyance or defence: it is solid throughout, and situated so advantageously, that it protects the whole visage, and enables the animal to assail its foes with irresistible effect. It frequently rips open the belly of its antagonist, and is dreaded by the tiger more than the elephant itself.

The body and limbs are covered with a blackish skin, so impenetrable as to resist the claws of the most ferocious animals, as well as the spear, and the shot of the hunters. Being incapable of either extension or contraction, it is rolled up in large folds at the neck, the shoulders, and the rump, in order to facilitate the motion of the head and limbs; which last are massy and furnished with large feet, armed with three toes.

Without being ferocious or carnivorous, the Rhinoceros is perfectly untractable. He is merely among large, what the common hog is among small animals; rash, violent, and brutal, without intelligence, sentiment, or docility; he seems even to be subject to paroxysms of fury, which nothing can mitigate, for one that Emanuel, king of Portugal, sent to the Pope in 1513, destroyed the vessel in which it was transported; and a Rhinoceros, exhibited some years in Paris, was drowned in a similar manner, while on the voyage to Italy.

The rhinoceros, which was shewn at London in 1739, and described by Doctor Parsons, had been sent from Bengal. Though it was very young, not being above two years old, yet the charge of his carriage and food from India, cost nearly a thousand pounds. It was fed with rice, sugar and hay: it was daily supplied with seven pounds of rice, mixed with three of sugar, divided into three por-

tions ; it was given great quantities of hay, and grass, which it chiefly prefers ; its drink was water, which it took in great quantities. It was of gentle disposition, and permitted itself to be touched and handled by all visitors, never attempting mischief, except when abused, or when hungry ; in such a case, there was no method of appeasing its fury, but by giving it something to eat. When angry it would jump up against the walls of its room, with great violence ; it made many efforts to escape, but seldom attempted to attack its keeper, and was always submissive to his threats. It had a peculiar cry, somewhat a mixture between the grunting of a hog, and the bellowing of a calf.

The age of these animals is not well known : it is said, by some, that they bring forth at three years old ; and, if we may reason from analogy, it is probable they seldom live above twenty.

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## THE WOLF.

THIS animal is nearly allied to the canine family, and indeed, in a few instances, has been known to intermix with it, and to produce a spurious breed. The wolf has a long head, a pointed nose, sharp erect ears, a long bushy tail, long legs, and longish hair ; he has formidable teeth, and is taller than any greyhound ; the colour is generally a pale brown, tinged with yellow, though it is sometimes found white, and in Canada, black. The eyes slant upwards, and are of a fiery green ; and the whole visage is ferocious, forming a just index of the disposition.

The Wolf is, in reality, one of those animals whose carnivorous appetite is the most vehement, and whose means of satisfying it are the most various. Nature has furnished him with strength, cunning, and agility, and all the requisites necessary for pursuit or conquest ; yet, with all those advantages, it is his fate frequently to die of hunger. Proscribed by man, he is compelled to seek the most sequestered retreats, and it is only when he is impelled by the most pressing hunger, that he ventures to make incursions near the villages and towns. His depredations, however, are terrible, whenever his raging appetites get the better of his fear ; on these occasions, he tears, and destroys with wanton barbarity ; and neither men nor animals are secure from his attacks.