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Georges-Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon (1707–88), was a French mathematician who was considered one of the leading naturalists of the Enlightenment. An acquaintance of Voltaire and other intellectuals, he work as Keeper at the Jardin du Roi from 1739, and this inspired him to research and publish a vast encyclopaedia and survey of natural history, the ground-breaking *Histoire Naturelle*, which he published in forty-four volumes between 1749 and 1804. These volumes, first published between 1770 and 1783 and translated into English in 1793, contain Buffon's survey and descriptions of birds from the *Histoire Naturelle*. Based on recorded observations of birds both in France and in other countries, these volumes provide detailed descriptions of various bird species, their habitats and behaviours and were the first publications to present a comprehensive account of eighteenth-century ornithology. Volume 4 covers foreign and domestic finches and flycatchers.

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The Natural History of Birds

From the French of the Count de Buffon

VOLUME 4

COMTE DE BUFFON
WILLIAM SMELLIE

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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paolo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108023016

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2010

This edition first published 1793
This digitally printed version 2010

ISBN 978-1-108-02301-6 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

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OF

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ILLUSTRATED WITH ENGRAVINGS;

AND A

PREFACE, NOTES, AND ADDITIONS,

BY THE TRANSLATOR.

IN NINE VOLUMES.

VOL. IV.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR A. STRAHAN, AND T. CADELL IN THE STRAND;
AND J. MURRAY, N° 32, FLEET-STREET.

MDCCXCIII.

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