

PLOTUS MELANOASTER.

CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Rostrum rectum, acuminatum, denticulatum.

Facies mentumque nuda.

Pedes breves, palmati, omnibus digitis connexis.

Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 580.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

PLOTUS supra albo lineatus, abdomine nigro.

PLOTUS melanogaster. Pl. capite lævi, abdomine nigro.

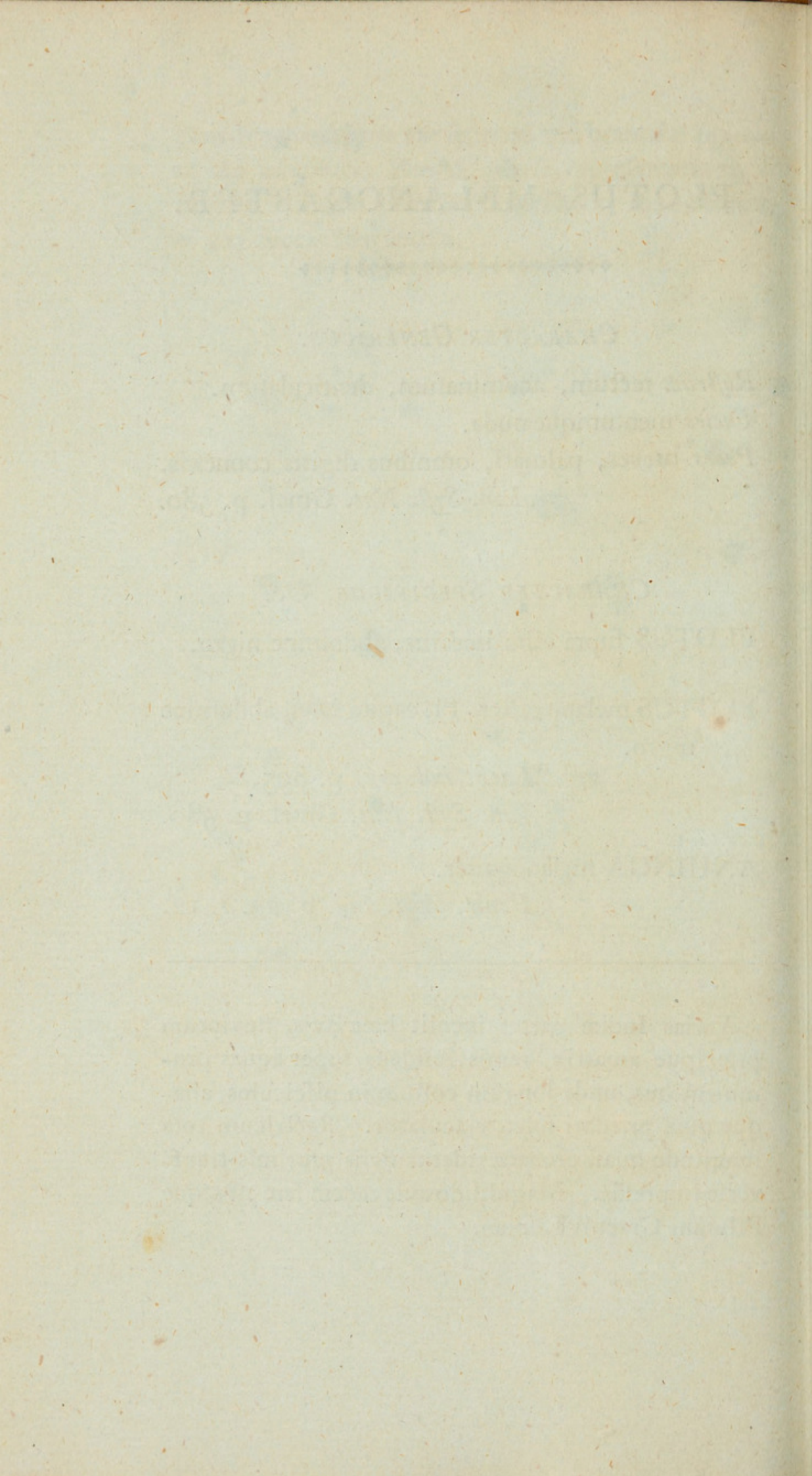
Lath. ind. orn. p. 895.

Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 580.

ANHINGA melanogaster.

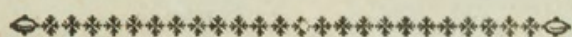
Penn^t. Zool. Ind. p. 22. t. 12.

Varias Indiæ partes incolit hæc avis, fluviorum præcipue amatrix, ramis insidens super aquas prominentibus, unde longum collum in pisciculos, aliaque quæ prædari solet, ejaculatur. Rectricum tota longitudo quasi crenata videtur striis plurimis transverse impressis. Magnitudo avis eadem fere est atque Pelecani Graculi Linnæi.





THE
BLACK-BELLIED DARTER.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill long, strait, sharp-pointed.

Nostrils long and narrow, near the base of the bill.

Legs short: toes four: all united by a web.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

DARTER with the body streaked with white above; the abdomen entirely black.

Black-bellied DARTER.

Lath. syn. 6. p. 624.

ANHINGA de Cayenne.

Pl. enl. 959.

This bird is a native of various parts of India, where it chiefly frequents rivers; generally sitting on branches which closely overhang the water; from time to time darting down its long neck in order to seize the smaller fishes and other animals on which it preys. The tail feathers are marked throughout their whole length by a great number of transverse undulations or furrows. The size of this species is nearly equal to that of a shag.



Shaw, George. 1799. "The Black-Bellied Darter, *Plotus melanogaster* [Pl. 373]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 10(CXV), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.304555>.

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