

THE MALLARD. (*Anas boschas* AUCT.) F. B. A. 2. p. 442.

This duck is stated by Mr. Audubon to be rare on the Atlantic coast of the United States, but to be more numerous in the interior, and to breed as far south as Kentucky and Indiana. It is very generally diffused through the fur countries up to the northern extremity of the woods, and is the weightiest and best duck that resorts thither. Of the true ducks (the *anatinae* of Swainson), the shoveller passes through the fur countries in about equal numbers with the mallard, but breeds farther north, on the barren grounds. The gadwal and widgeon breed in all parts of the woody country, though in smaller numbers than the preceding ones; while the green-winged teal, on the other hand, is much more numerous, and breeds on the banks of every river and lake, both in the woody and barren districts. The blue-winged teal is also numerous, to the southward of the Athabasca country; and the summer-duck is rare on the Saskatchewan, and does not travel farther north. These ducks arrive from the south as soon as the snow melts, and before the ice of the small lakes is broken up. The *fuliginæ*, or sea ducks, are also very numerous in the fur countries, either on their passage farther north, or as halting to breed there. The eider and king ducks are plentiful on the coast and islands of the Arctic sea; and also on the coast of Hudson's Bay, to the north of Churchill; but are never seen in the fresh waters of the interior. In their migrations, it would appear that they keep near the open sea, passing along the eastern coast of Labrador. The American scoter (*oidemia Americana*) is also an inhabitant of the sea-coast only, breeding near Churchill. The surf and velvet ducks travel through the interior to the arctic coasts and islands, where they breed: they are very abundant, but not much valued as articles of food, except when better provisions are scarce. The noisy long-tailed duck assembles in still larger flocks than these, and breeds in the same places. It is this bird which the Canadian voyagers celebrate in their songs, under the name of "caccawee." The canvas-back, pochard, scaup, and ring-necked ducks, breed every where to the northward of the 50th parallel of latitude up to the extremity of the continent; but do not appear often on the sea-coast. They associate much with the *anatinae*, seeking their food in the same lakes and ponds, but taking it more generally from the bottom in deeper places, and consequently diving more. The Rocky-mountain garret, golden eye, and spirit ducks, are still better divers than the preceding, and the two last are very numerous. Their flesh is tough. The harlequin duck is rare, and the very curious ruddy duck, though plentiful on the plains of the Saskatchewan, does not go much farther northwards. This bird has a tail very similar in structure to that of a cormorant, which it carries erect in swimming, so that at a little distance the body seems to have a head stuck up at each end. The ruddy duck is said to arrive in the fur countries always in the night time, and to be rarely seen on the wing: indeed, its short pinions do not appear to be well adapted for sustained flight.

The mergansers are not rare in the northern parts of America; but they are of comparatively little importance, in an economical point of view.

TRUMPETER SWAN. (*Cygnus buccinator*.) F. B. A. 2. p. 464.

This swan, the first of the water-fowl that revisits the fur countries in the spring, is hailed with delight by the Indians as the harbinger of plenty, for the geese and ducks shortly follow, and abundance reigns in the encampments of the natives for a few weeks. The trumpeter swan, even on its first arrival, is generally seen in pairs, seldom in flocks, and it frequents eddies under water-falls, and other