

The swan, except in a few particular localities, is a scarce, rather than a plentiful bird, on the shores of Hudson's Bay. Of somewhat ponderous flight, swans are seen at the same time as the other migratory tribes, winging their way to the secluded recesses of the north, resting themselves throughout the interior, and losing units of their number here and there by the Indian's gun. In the scarcity of their favourite food—the tubers of the *Sagittaria sagittifolia*—they have recourse to the roots of other plants, and the tender under-ground runners of grasses, in the higher latitudes. They sometimes breed in the interior, before arriving at the coast. I had two eggs brought to me from the borders of a lake near Norway House, lat. nearly 55° N. But it was impossible for me to say, whether these were of the *Cygnus Americanus*, or *C. Buccinator*. The probability rests with the former.

Towards Eastmain James's Fort, in James's Bay, a considerable number of swans hatch;—a few are killed by the natives there, who watch the game as it passes up and down narrow rivers communicating with the sea, and flowing from lakes of some magnitude scattered over the interior. In the winter months all the northern regions are deserted by the swans, and from November to April large flocks are to be seen on the expanses of the large rivers of the Oregon territory and California, between the Cascades Range and the Pacific, where the climate is particularly mild, and their favourite food abounds in the lakes and placid waters. Collected sometimes in great numbers their silvery strings embellish the landscape, and form part of the life and majesty of the scene. These societies break up as they advance upon their long spring journey to the north. They are then dispersed in small bands and but few together, each of a pair at last separating and betaking to the cares of the season of incubation. In the most secluded and unfrequented districts, where there is ample water range, they rear the young.

Superior to the swans as an article of food, the geese of every species are tenfold in number, and they form the favourite dish of the Indians of Hudson's Bay. When the long and dreary winter has fully expended itself and the Willow Grouse (*Tetrao saliceti*) have taken their departure for more northern regions, there is frequently a period of dread starvation to many of the natives, who are generally at that time moving from their wintering grounds to the trading posts. The first note, therefore, of the