

THE SPOTTED GROUSE. (*Tetrao canadensis.*) F. B. A. 2. p. 347. t. 62.

This bird ranges from the northern districts of the United States to the extremities of the woods on the banks of the Mackenzie (lat. 68°); and from the facility with which it can be killed at certain seasons when game is scarce, is of great service to the Indian hunter. It inhabits thick forests, and particularly swampy places where the black spruce grows, and on this account is called by the Canadian voyagers *perdreix de savanne*. The leaves of the spruce form its food, which gives its dark-coloured flesh a strong resinous taste. Franklin's grouse, an inhabitant of the acclivities of the Rocky Mountains, and the country to the westward of that ridge, differs from the spotted grouse in the twelve upper tail coverts being broadly tipped with white, and, according to Mr. Douglas, their eggs are also dissimilar.

THE WILLOW GROUSE. (*Lagopus saliceti.*) F. B. A. 2. p. 351.

This ptarmigan is of still more importance to the Indian population of the fur countries than the preceding grouse, on account of its vast numbers sufficing for the support of many of the tribes for a considerable part of the year. It inhabits the barren grounds and the summits of the rocky hills in the woody country, during the summer season, seeking shelter in the woods in winter; and it is in the latter part of the year that it is most plentifully taken. Ten thousand have been caught by nets or snares in one winter at a single fur post.

THE ROCK PTARMIGAN. (*Lagopus rupestris.*) F. B. A. 2. p. 354. t. 64.

This species is more peculiarly an inhabitant of the barren lands than the last, never coming into the woods except in the winter, and even then only for a short way. It is very abundant in some districts. Another species, named by Dr. Leach *lagopus mutus*, visits, according to Captain James Ross, the peninsula of Boothia, along with this and the willow grouse, but the rock ptarmigan is the most abundant in the islands of the Arctic sea. There is a smaller ptarmigan than any of these, peculiar to the Rocky Mountains, which may be known by the whole of its tail feathers being white, whence it has received the specific appellation of *lagopus leucurus*.

SHARP-TAILED GROUSE. (*Centrocercus phasianellus.*) F. B. A. 2. p. 361.

This bird is abundant in the fur countries up to the 61st parallel, both in the prairies and among the woods. Its flesh, though superior to that of any of the preceding ptarmigan or grouse, is not so tender or white as that of the ruffed grouse, which is also plentiful as high as the 56th parallel. Other birds of this genus inhabit the plains of the Columbia, but those we have mentioned are the most serviceable to the Indian tribes that inhabit the districts through which Captain Back passed.

RASSENGER PIGEON. (*Columba migratoria.*) F. B. A. 2. p. 363.

This pigeon, which breeds in almost incredible numbers in some parts of the United States, visits the fur countries up to the 62nd parallel of latitude, but not in such quantities anywhere to the northward of Lake Winnipeg, as to contribute much to the support of the natives: at the south end of that lake, indeed, for a month or two in summer, when the floods have overflowed the low lands, and no four-footed game is to be procured, a few families of Indians subsist upon this