
BIRDS OF PEASEMARSH

How it must have cheered Jacques Cartier in the strange New World to find, as he tells in his relations of his voyages, "Cranes, Swans, Wild Geese (white and gray), Ducks, Thrushes, Blackbirds, Turtles, Wild Pigeons, Finches, Redbreasts, Nightingales, Sparrows and other birds, even as in France."

When Sir John Franklin was on his last journey overland to the Arctic, he wrote of their delight at the return of Swans, Ducks and Geese, giving the first indications of spring after the long, cold, dark winter they had been forced to spend in the northland. When travelling down the Coppermine River, almost within sight of the northern ocean, he was serenaded by the many birds that were going to their nesting places. On July 11, he mentions in his diary the Ducks and Snowbirds that were nesting there, giving life to the dreary wastes.

Frequently birds were invaluable guides to the explorers travelling in an unknown country. "Late in the evening, as we descried the Ravens wheeling in circles round a small group of poplars, and according to our expectation we found the Indians encamped there,"