

taking alarm at the least noise; and even without disturbance will emit their harsh and disagreeable scream the whole day through. They walk very erect, with the neck much elevated; and as they bear a middle line between that of the swan and goose, they have not improperly been called *swan-geese*.

The *Tadorna*, or *Schildrake*, is a species found at Iceland, and Southward about the Caspian Sea. A remarkable circumstance of this bird is, that it breeds in deserted rabbit holes, or occupies them in the absence of the owners, who, rather than attempt to dislodge the intruders, form others; though, in defect of ready-made quarters, these birds will frequently dig holes for themselves. They lay fifteen or sixteen roundish white eggs. These are placed at the farther end of the hole, covered with down supplied from the breast of the female, who sits about thirty days. She is very careful of the young, and will often carry them from place to place in her bill: 'this we are certain of,' says Mr. Latham, 'from a young one having been dropt at the foot of an intelligent friend unhurt, by the mother flying over his head.' When a person attempts to take their young, the old birds show great address in diverting his attention from the brood: They will fly along the ground as if wounded, till the former are got into a place of security, and then return and collect them together. From this instinctive cunning, Turner, with good reason, imagines them to be the *Chenalopex*, or *Fox-goose* of the ancients. The natives of the Orkneys to this day call them the *fly-geese*, from an attribute of that quadruped.

The young, as soon as hatched, take to the water, and swim surprisingly well; but do not come to their full plumage till the second year. This species, Mr. Latham informs us, may be hatched under a tame duck, and the young readily brought up; but are apt, after a few years, to attempt the mastery over the rest of the poultry.

The *Speffabilis* or *grey-headed duck* of Edwards, and *king-duck* of Pennant, is a beautiful species, found in all the northern latitudes. In Greenland, its flesh is accounted excellent, and the crude gibbous part of the bill a great delicacy. It produces a down equally valuable as the eider. The skins are sewed together, and make warm garments. The natives kill them with darts, and use the following method to succeed: A number of men in canoes falling in with a flock while swimming, on a sudden set up a shouting, making as much noise as they can: on which, the birds being too much frightened to fly

away, dive under the water; but as the place at which they are to rise again is known by the bubbling of the water above, the hunters follow them up as close as may be; and after acting this three or four times over, the birds become so fatigued as to be easily killed.

The *fusca*, or *velvet-duck*, which is the *black-duck* of Ray, is in length about 20 inches. It is common in all the north. Our late navigators met with it at Aconulashka. It is now and then seen on the coasts of England, but is not common. It is more frequent in Denmark, Russia, Siberia, and Kamtschatka. In breeding-time, it goes far inland to lay the eggs. After the season is over, the males are said to depart; the females staying behind till the young are able to fly, when the two last go ill together off, but to what part is not certain. It is in greater plenty at Ochotska, especially about the equinox. Fifty or more of the natives go in boats and surround the whole flock, driving them in the flood up the river Ochotska. And as soon as it ebbs, the whole company fall on them at once with clubs, and often knock so many of them on the head that each man has 20 or 30 for his share.

The *nigra*, or *scoter*, is the lesser *black Diver* of Ray. It is totally black, except the female, which is brownish. They are found on the northern coasts of England and Scotland in the winter season; but, on the French coasts, they are seen in prodigious numbers from November to March, especially if the wind be to the N. or N. W. Their chief food is a glossy bivalve shell, near an inch long. These they are perpetually diving after, frequently to the depth of some fathoms; and an usual method of catching them is by placing nets under the water in such places where the shells are most numerous; by which means 30 or 40 dozen of them have been taken in one tide. The day seems to be spent by these birds between diving and flying to small distances over the water, which it does so low as frequently to dip the legs therein. It swallows the food whole, and soon digests the shells, which are found quite crumbled to powder among the excrements. It has been kept tame for some time, and will feed on soaked bread. The flesh tastes fishy to an extreme; on which account it is allowed by the Roman Catholics to be eaten on fast days, and indeed must be a sufficient mortification.

The *Anser ferus*, *grey lag*, or *wild goose*, is two feet nine inches in length, and five feet in extent. The bill is large and elevated; of a flesh colour, tinged with yellow; the head and neck cinerous; breast and belly whitish, clouded with grey or ash