

that when they sit on the rocks, they appear to be standing; their bodies and necks being almost perpendicular. The owls are about the size of a duck; their breasts are white, and the rest of their feathers black. The Toporkas are nearly of the same size, their feathers being grey, their beaks red, broad, flat, and prominent; their eyes shaded with a row of white feathers, arched like eyebrows. The skins of these birds are much valued for their firmness, and are mostly made into garments for the men. Their beaks are used by the women for the decoration of their cloaths. There are no birds so difficult to shoot as these, from the extreme closeness of their plumage, which repels the shot; besides which, they frequently plunge into the water, and when they swim clap their wings as in flying. Two sorts of geese also occasionally visit the island; the first, which come from the southern countries in the middle of April, and reside on the lakes during the summer, are of a moderate size, with grey plumage, and the head and neck black; in September and October they disappear again, and are succeeded by others of a similar size, with an ash-coloured plumage speckled with white. These latter come hither from the north, live the whole winter on the cliffs, that are often under water, and feed on the seaweeds that abound in these parts.

In April, at the commencement of spring, they fly to the northern climates, where they probably breed. Yet we saw none of them in the country of the Tschukshens, whence I should draw the conclusion, that they make the shore of North America their summer residence. The amphibious tribe of animals are less numerous here, than in the other Aleutian Islands. There were formerly otters in abundance, the skins of which were made into vests by the inhabitants; but since the stay of the Russians here, the number of these animals has been greatly diminished, and they are now very scarce. Sea-bears make their appearance in spring and autumn, but for a short time only, as they withdraw to the north in the spring, and to the south in autumn. Sea-lions however, frequent the detached rocks both summer and winter, though not in great numbers.

Fish of different kinds are to be found round the island, as roach, cod, and another sort call terpuges, much variegated with yellow, green, and red spots. The rivers in June, July, and August, abound with ketas and the hump-backed salmon. Among the shell-fish are three sorts of crabs, the first round and large, with long feet, very similar to those of the spider, and on that account called sea-spiders: the second in like manner round but smaller, with shorter legs and longer pincers; the third sort resembles the small river crabs, ex-