

carry away the game he may have killed, though a fire be lighted for its protection. I procured specimens of this animal at Carlton, in the spring of 1827.

There is another small species of *Fox* found in the plains, which the traders call the *Kit Fox*, it is the smallest of the genus that I have ever seen. The traders furnished us with skins of it, but it did not fall under my observation in a living state.

The different species of *Arctomys*, or *Ground Squirrel*, have been already described by Dr. Richardson. Three of them are found in the vicinity of Carlton House: they are the *Arctomys Franklinii*, *A. Richardsoni*, and *A. Hoodii*. All are lively and beautiful animals. The former, when pursued by dogs, will sometimes climb up a tree, but it is an unwieldy creature in such circumstances, when compared with the *Hudson's Bay Squirrel*, which it somewhat resembles.

The birds most worthy of notice are the *Tetrao Phasianellus*, the *Pheasant* of the traders, or *Pin-tailed Grouse*: these abound on the plains. They are about as big as the British grouse, of a much lighter colour, and having two of the tail feathers projecting about two inches beyond the rest, whence the name is derived. In habit, these birds resemble the common grouse, they make their nests on the ground, laying from five to ten or a dozen eggs, which are like those of a partridge. They keep in families until winter, when they congregate in large coveys. At pairing time, which is the month of May, the *Pin-tailed Grouse* select some little eminence, to which they resort at daybreak in great numbers, jumping, running round each other, chuckling, and performing many curious manœuvres; and this they continue to do for several weeks, until the ground is worn quite bare, when they separate in pairs for the season. Their flesh is well-flavoured, and the sportsman would find excellent amusement in following them.

Among the numerous species of *Duck* that frequent the lakes of the plain, may be particularised the *Ruddy Duck*, remarkable for the brilliant blue colour of the bill of the male, and the singular way in which, when courting or