

pieces of open water, until the general breaking up of the ice on the rivers and lakes. Being difficult of approach, it is most frequently killed at a long shot by a single ball. As the down of the swan is of considerable value, the bird is skinned by the hunter, but the carcass even after undergoing that operation is very good to eat, being nearly equal to that of a goose. The breeding places of the trumpeter swan are beyond the 60th parallel, but it is not so northern a bird as the following species.

BEWICK'S SWAN. (*Cygnus Bewickii.*) F. B. A. 2. p. 465.

This is a smaller bird than the trumpeter, and is common to Europe and America. It is plentiful on the coast of Hudson's Bay, and breeds on the peninsulas of Melville and Boothia, and in the islands of the Arctic Sea. It arrives among the latest of the water-fowl in the fur countries in spring, and stays long in the autumn. The last swans of the season passed over Fort Franklin, lat. $64\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N., on the 5th of October.

CANADA GOOSE. (*Anser Canadensis.*) F. B. A. 2. p. 468.

The Canada goose, named "outarde" by the early French travellers in the fur countries, and also by the Canadian voyageurs of the present day, breeds sparingly in the interior of the United States as low as the Ohio, and in the state of Maine near the Atlantic coast. It winters, Mr. Audubon tells us, in vast flocks in the savannas of Florida and the Arkansas, and commences its northward migration from the middle and western districts with the first melting of the snows, that is, between the 20th of March and the end of April. Major Long informs us that the great migration of geese commences at Engineer Cantonment on the Missouri (lat. $41\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$.) on the 22nd of February, and terminates in the latter end of March. The Canada goose breeds in every part of the fur countries, but has not been seen on the shores of the Arctic Sea. It arrives in flocks when the snow melts, and soon afterwards spreads over the country in pairs. The following table of the ordinary dates of its arrival at particular places gives a correct idea of the commencement of spring in the different parallels.

Penetanguishene, Lake Huron	Lat. $44\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N.	March 24.	April 2.
Cumberland House, Saskat . . .	— 54° N.	April 8.	to 12.
Fort Chepewyan	— $58\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N.	— 20.	— 25.
— Resolution, Slave Lake . . .	— $61\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N.	May 1.	— 6.
— Enterprise.	— $64\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N.	— 12.	— 20.
— Franklin, Great Bear Lake	— $64\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N.	— 7.	— 20.

In the month of July the old birds moult, and may be seen in every river, followed by their young brood, not fully feathered and incapable of flying. When pursued they dive repeatedly, but are soon fatigued, and make for the shore; though, unless they reach a swamp where they can hide themselves among the long grass, they fall an easy prey to the hunter, who knocks them on the head with a stick. A canoe is soon loaded at this sport; and I have, on several occasions, procured a supper in this way for a large party in a few minutes. As soon as the ground begins to harden with the autumnal frosts, and one or two falls of snow have taken place, the Canada goose again assembles in large flocks, and wings its way to the southward. In their flights the geese generally take advantage of a favourable gale; and when their cry is heard in the night high in the air, as they hasten before the wind to warmer latitudes, cold weather is sure to follow. There are certain spots or passes which the geese always visit on their migrations; but they do

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