

The foxes here think the farmer's yard beneath their notice, as they find sufficient Foxes. subsistence in the woods. Their hair is thick, smooth, of a deep brown colour; underneath it is long, and silver coloured, which has a pleasant effect, they are vastly numerous among the woods of the small hills, and here also the tiger and pichou most commonly inhabit, nothing but hunger bringing them down to the farms.

The wild cat of Louisiana is very different from that of Canada, or indeed from any other of the species, and very improperly so named, it having nothing of a cat about it, but its nimbleness. It is easily familiarised to a house, and then it becomes larger and fatter; but its skin is not so beautiful as that of a fox. It is not above 8 or 10 inches high, sometimes 15 long, and when tamed full of diverting tricks. This animal is sometimes served up to table, and not bad food. It lives upon fruit and vegetables, and is not fond of game; to catch which its short claws were never formed by nature.

The head and tail of the wood-rat are like those of the common rat, only his Wood-rat. tail has hardly any hair upon it, if you take hold of it, it winds about your finger. It is a slow, lazy animal, which scarcely any thing can put out of its common pace; but it has cunning enough on apprehension of danger, to counterfeit death so well, that the deceit was not to be discovered, nor will it stir, though you should to it about till you are weary. It is very common, and easily taken. Nothing can be more defenceless; and though it is a violent enemy to poultry; the blood of which it sucks, one would imagine it had no enemies among the brute creation. The down is thin, greyish and rough; the natives spin it, and makes girdles of it, which they die red. It climbs well, and seeks its prey in the night. The flesh is very good food, tasting like young pig; the fat is said to allay the pain of the rheumatism and sciatica. See more particulars of this little animal, and our account of squirrels, porcupines, &c. in the Natural History of Canada, p. 3^d.

The beaver, hedge-hog, crocodile, and some land tortoises are found in these regions, with frogs a foot and half long, the croak of which is loud and horridly disagreeable. In the woods and Savannas are several sorts of serpents, none of which is so much to be feared as the rattle snake, whose tail, in which is a rattle, proclaims the danger of his coming, and that plant which is an antidote against his poison, is always found near him. We have here also chameleons, various other sorts of lizards, and very large spiders. Other beasts.

We shall now proceed to the birds and fishes peculiar to this part of the world, in which our author confines himself, with his usual fidelity, to describing such only as he had an opportunity of knowing; and these, he observes, are very few in comparison with what the country affords. The eagle is not here so large as in Europe; its feathers are white edged with black, vastly esteemed by the natives, and used in adorning their calumet, or signal of peace. They have also several sorts of hawks; but their birds of prey rather level their rage against hares, rabbits, squirrels, and other quadrupeds, than against their own species. Birds and fishes.

Their swan is large, fat, and good eating; and its feathers in high estimation for adorning crowns, and making head-dresses for women, and tippets. It flies high, and is larger than ours. Swan.

The saw bill so named from part of its bill being indented like a saw, lives only, as Saw-bill. it is said, on shrimps, which it picks from the shell, after breaking it with its bill. The crook-bill [*hec-croche*] is as large as a capon; its feathers are white, and its flesh, though red, good eating. It feeds on cray-fish. The hatchet-bill [*hec-de-bach*] takes its name from the resemblance of its bill, which is red, to the edge of a hatchet, it is sometimes called *red-foot*, the legs and feet being of a beautiful red. It hunts by the sea-side in search of shell-fish, on which it subsists, and its retreat within land is an infallible sign of a storm. The king-fisher differs from that in Europe only by the beauty of his plumage, which displays all the colours of the rainbow. Crook-bill. Hatchet-bill.

Our author observes, that when the booby, the man of war-bird, and cheef bird, (one seemingly of the same species, but swifter flighted, and chequered with brown and white) fly low, they are sure prognostics of a storm; whereas the appearance of a halycon is quite the reverse; an observation known to all the world. He describes the last as somewhat larger than a swallow, with a longer bill, and the finest violet feathers, with two streaks of yellowish brown near the extremity of its wings, and one coming over the back. Prognostics of a storm. Halycon.