

Here it is seen in small troops of from ten to forty in number, toppling over the waves and looking truly interesting. Such scenes as this may be frequently observed in the Firth of Forth, at the mouths of the larger rivers in Scotland, and in similar situations in some parts of Ireland. Its wing-powers, when assailed by the gunner in his sea-boat, are sufficient to enable it to get out of harm's way, by flying seaward, or from one part of the estuary to another; its diving-powers also are by no means insignificant. It is therefore not readily approachable, and the acquisition of specimens is no easy task. When paired and breeding on the far-off islands of the mysterious northern regions, it is much more tame in disposition, and attired in a dress which closely assimilates in colour to the surrounding herbage of the sappy fells with their moss-covered stones and scanty vegetation.

Professor Reinhardt includes it in his "List of the Birds hitherto observed in Greenland" (Ibis, 1861), but does not furnish us with any details respecting it. Captain Blakiston, in his notes "On the Birds of the Interior of British North America" (Ibis, 1863), mentions that he saw it in Hudson's Bay; and Mr. Ross states that it is abundant on the Mackenzie. Mr. A. E. Verrill, in his "Notes on the Natural History of Anticosti," published in the Proceedings of the Boston Natural-History Society for 1862, states that the Long-tailed Duck breeds abundantly, and is very common there. Mr. A. Newton, in his "Notes on the Birds of Spitsbergen" (Ibis, 1865), says the *Harelda glacialis* "is one of the few regular visitants to that country, where, however, it seems to be scarce; but it occurs as far north as the Dépôt Holm, lat. 80° N., where Dr. Malmgren saw a female bird. He also saw a pair in Kobbe Bay, on the 28th of May, 1861, and in 1864, on the first of August, met with a family party of five on a small pool of fresh water on one of the Horn Sound Islands." Mr. H. Whitely, jun., obtained several specimens at Hakodadi, in Japan, in January 1865, from native bird-catchers, and states that it was common in the harbour in winter (Ibis, 1867); and Mr. R. Brown includes it in his "Synopsis of the Birds of Vancouver Island" (Ibis, 1868). The late Mr. Wheelwright, in his 'Spring and Summer in Lapland,' says:—"The Long-tailed Ducks made their appearance on the Tana river towards the middle of May, and, after remaining there a short time, retired up the fell-lakes to breed. Before breeding, we always saw them in small flocks; and I think of all Ducks these are the most restless; for they are never still, but continually chasing each other about, uttering a pleasing note, which Nilsson likens to the tone of a clarionet, 'a gleck, a gleck.' The only nest I obtained was on the fell-meadow where the Lap Buntings breed. I was walking down a narrow track-way by the side of a fell-lake, on the night of the 27th of June, when I nearly trod upon an old female sitting on her nest. Although her head was turned towards me, she never attempted to rise, and I caught her on the nest, which contained seven fresh eggs. The next morning I saw two young broods on the water, apparently a few days old. During the breeding-season the old males appear to leave the females and congregate in small flocks; and even in the end of June we used to see, occasionally, six or eight males on the rivers at Quickiock."

Mr. Hewitson "met with this species in Norway in considerable numbers, always in flocks, roving from place to place, and apparently unattached to any particular localities, sometimes sweeping past within a few yards with great rapidity, uttering their strikingly wild musical and most interesting cries.

"Eggs were brought from Iceland by Mr. G. C. Atkinson, who found a nest near the margin of a small lake, lined with down and containing six eggs.

"Mr. Proctor tells me that the bird is common in the last-mentioned country, and that it makes its nest amongst low brushwood and aquatic plants at the edge of the fresh water, of a few stems of grass and reeds, well lined with down, and usually lays from six to ten eggs, which, however, in one instance were twelve in number. When recent they are of an asparagus-green colour, approaching to apple-green, with the shell smooth; of a broad oval form, an inch and eleven twelfths to two inches and a twelfth in length, and generally an inch and a half in breadth."

"The male," says Macgillivray, "in swimming, raises his tail obliquely, in rough water almost erects it, and is remarkable for the grace and vivacity of his movements. Their flight is rapid, direct, and generally performed at the height of a few feet. They rise easily from the water, especially when facing a breeze, and alight rather abruptly. Sometimes during the day, but more frequently at night, they emit various loud rather plaintive cries, as well as cacklings of various shorter guttural notes, which I think can neither be easily imitated nor well expressed in words. In the north-eastern isles this bird is known by the name of Caloe, as well as the whimsical one of Coal-and-Candle-light, both derived from its cries; and in the Hebrides it is named Iambhochail, ian signifying a bird, and bhochail expressing its soft protracted note."

The front figure in the opposite plate represents a male, of the natural size, in winter plumage, the reduced figures a male and a female in that of summer.