the months of December and January that it retires to the southward of the Saskatchewan. It usually reaches that river again about the middle of February; two months afterwards it attains the sixty-fifth parallel of latitude; and in the beginning of May it is found on the coast of the Polar Sea. At this period it feeds upon the buds of the Saxifraga oppositifolia, one of the most early of the arctic plants; during the winter its crop is filled with grass-seeds. In the month of October, Wilson found a large flock running over a bed of water-plants, and feeding, not only on their seeds, but on the shelly mollusca which adhered to the leaves; and he observes that the long hind claws of these birds afford them much support when so engaged. The young are fed with insects."—Faun. Bor.-Am. vol. ii. p. 246.

In his 'Notes on the Ornithology of Lapland,' the late Mr. Wheelwright says:-" Although the Snow-Bunting did not appear to remain during the winter, we observed small flocks of it during our whole journey up north of Hernosand; and very soon after we arrived at Quickiock I shot specimens in nearly pure winter dress; they seem to leave the lowlands for the fells early in May. We never found a nest, although the bird breeds abundantly among the fells, and we shot old birds in their summer dress as well as young fliers in the end of July, and one of the latter as early as the 6th of that month. I am not surprised that we did not find the nest; for the wildest and most desolate spots on the fells appeared to be their summer home. On these fells there are thousands of acres, we might say many miles, covered with nothing but loose shingly slate and ironstone, and boulders of erratic rock, which are most difficult to traverse; and here we always saw the Snow-Bunting during the breeding-season; but when the young could fly they appeared to descend lower down on the fells."

During the months of September and October the British Islands are visited by numbers of these birds, the eastern coast particularly, the great promontory of Norfolk being a favourite place of resort; but it is less numerous in the southern and western parts of our islands. That it proceeds still further south is evident, Mr. Frederick Du Cane Godman having seen it in the Azores; it is said that it also visits the Canaries. I believe we have no direct evidence that the bird has ever bred with us; but we may reasonably assume that a few now and then remain for that purpose; for Macgillivray states, in his 'Natural History of the Deeside and Braemar,' that he "met with this species early in August in the corry and on the summit of Lochnagar, on the Glas-mheal, in the western corry of Cairn Toul, on the summit of Ben-na-muic-dhui, and in several other localities. Mr. Cumming and Mr. Brown inform me that it resides there all summer and breeds. In winter it frequents the valleys from Castletown to Ballater in small flocks. According to Mr. Stewart it breeds on Ben Aun."

"Seen against a dark hill-side or lowering sky," says Mr. Saxby, in the 'Zoologist,' "a flock of these birds presents an exceedingly beautiful appearance, and it may then be seen how aptly the term 'Snowflake' has been applied to the species. I am acquainted with no more pleasing combination of sight and sound than that afforded when a number of these birds, backed by a dark grey sky, drop as it were in a shower to the ground, to the music of their own sweet tinkling voices."

So much diversity occurs in the colouring of the Snow-Bunting during its progress from youth to maturity that examples have been described as pertaining to different species, besides which a seasonal change takes place which transforms the bird amazingly; jet-black and snow-white is the characteristic of the breeding-dress of the male, while that of the female is browner, with streaks of darker hue on the head and back, and she has much less white on the shoulder; the under surface, however, is white as in the male; the bills of both sexes at this season are jet-black.

The young, as may be seen in the accompanying Plate, are very unlike the adult, being olive-brown above, streaked with black, while the belly is tawny and the white shoulder-marks slightly tinged with the same hue. The Plate represents a male, a female, and a nest of young, of the natural size, in summer plumage. The reduced tawny-coloured figure represents the dress in which the birds are frequently seen in autumn and

winter. The red-flowering Lichen is the Cladonia cornucopioides.