deserted nests of this Falcon, being too late to find any tenanted by the owners; this was in the beginning of August; and from one of them he took an addled egg. The nest was composed of sticks and roots, and lined with wool, much resembling that of a Raven, to which bird it might have originally belonged. Strewn around it lay the remains of many Whimbrels, Golden Plovers, Guillemots, and Ducks. All the nests he saw were in cliffs forming the boundaries of freshwater lakes, but none of them so high in the mountains as he expected to find them. A similar account is given by Faber of a nest seen by him in 1821. This, the only one he found, was in South-western Iceland; it was large and flat, placed on the upper part of an inaccessible wall of rock. There were three full-grown young, two of which, on the 6th of July, had already left it and sat near by. The old birds flew around screaming, but did not attack him. Remains of various sea-fowl lay about. Faber adds, both young and old approach the homesteads, where they sit on elevations and often fight with the Ravens. Four seems to be the proper complement of eggs; they are suffused or closely freckled with reddish orange or pale reddish brown on a dull white ground, which commonly is hardly discernible between the markings, though these are sometimes collected into blotches of considerable extent; specimens measure from 2·48 to 2·13 inches by from 1·91 to 1·72."

"In the days when falconry stood first on the list of sports," says Mr. Hoy, "the Icelander was considered a present worthy the acceptance of a king. The King of Denmark sent a vessel annually to Iceland to bring all the Hawks of this kind it was possible to procure for the use of his falconers, and to be sent as presents to the different princes on the Continent; they were even sent to the Barbary states and into the Eastern countries; so much were they esteemed. An old falconer, lately dead, assured me that he had seen upwards of fifty Iceland Falcons at the same time in the care of persons who were about to start with them as presents to the different courts of Europe. A falconer who was in the hawking establishment of Louis XVI. of France informed me that they had several casts or pairs sent annually from Denmark. The Icelander was greatly prized, not only on account of its superior powers of flight, but its tractable, gentle disposition. It is not so difficult to reclaim and manage as the Ger Falcon; there is also a decided difference in their flight and manner of striking their prey; the Icelander, in the language of falconry, flies more nobly, pouncing his prey with more lofty stoops. The flight of the hare with the female, the male being used for the Heron, Kite, and Buzzards, was considered one of the finest sights the sport could afford. An open country is requisite to see this flight in perfection. The hare being started, the Falcon was immediately thrown off the fist, and, instantly catching sight of its prey, mounted to a considerable height; a slow dog, well trained with the Hawk, was used to keep the hare running, as it would otherwise squat on being once stooped at by the Falcon. The Falcon kills the hare by repeated blows on the back and head, coming in an almost perpendicular direction upon it from a great height and with wonderful velocity, the blow being almost imperceptibly given in passing, and the Falcon again rising, or, as they term it, shooting up steeplehigh after every stoop; occasionally the victim is killed the first stoop, and driven several yards by the violence of it. In a good flight several lofty stoops are made. Again, in the air the Icelander kills the Crane, Heron, or Kite by repeated blows, the great interest taken in the flight being to watch the exertions of the Falcon to out-soar its prey and then precipitate itself with closed wings and astonishing rapidity and force, its prey seldom reaching the ground without being mortally disabled. An instance has occurred of a male Icelander striking the head from the neck of a Heron by a single blow in the air."—Mag. Nat. Hist. vol. vi. 1833, p. 108.

On comparing either sex of the present species with the corresponding sex of the Norwegian or Gyrfalcon, it will be found to be of larger size, to have the upper and under surface much lighter in colour, the face and crown striated and without any Peregrine-like appearance in its countenance, the bars of the tail quite perfect and well defined, the feet and cere pale yellow and not orange-yellow as in the Gyr Falcon, and the head more bluff or less elegant in shape.

I must not fail to mention that the markings of the under surface are of a striated form in the youthful birds, and that these marks become of a transverse or barred form in the adult. To illustrate these and the other remarkable differences between the adult and young, I have considered it necessary to give two Plates, the one representing the former, the other a bird of the first autumn, both somewhat less than the natural size.