

**Historic References to Swans and Trumpeter Swans**  
**Compiled by Dr. Donald A. Hammer**

**Nuttall, Thomas. Journal of Travels into the Arkansas Territory During the Year 1819.**

17 December at the mouth of the Ohio River

p. 41 The whole country here, on both sides of the Mississippi and the Ohio, remains uninhabited in consequence of inundation, and abounds with various kinds of game, but particularly deer and bear, turkeys, geese, and swans, with hosts of other aquatic fowls; though, with the exception of the white pelican, they are such as commonly exist in many other parts of the Union.

**Nichols, Roger. Ed. The Missouri Expedition, 1818-1820: The Journal of Surgeon John Gale, with Related Documents.**

At Martin Cantonment along the Missouri River in Kansas

p. 47 February 3, 1819

Numerous Geese, Swans, ducks and other birds of passage, have made their appearance, winging their flight to the North. A few have been Killed.

Same place between February 14 and 24, 1819.

3 officers and 20 men having taken fifty deer, sixty turkeys a bear three cubs and quantity of honey

same place August 11, 1819

Captain Martin arrived from his hunting excursion. He has been very successful having killed 300 deer 20 bears and collected five barrels of hone.

**Benson, Maxine. From Pittsburg to the Rocky Mountains: Major Stephan Long's Expedition 1819-1820.**

p. 39 July 2, 1819. On the Mississippi River near Cape Girardeau, MO

We had met with some wild geese; and a swan, which we saw was unable to fly, having at that time cast its feathers.

p. 75 On the Missouri River near Fort Osage August 20, 1819

Sandhill cranes, and flocks of prairie hens were also seen, but were so shy as not to be taken without much difficulty.

p. 132 On the Missouri river near Council Bluffs on February 22, 1820

They saw several herds of elk, and yesterday they saw swans, geese, and ducks flying up the river.

p. 136 Same place on April 4, 1820

Great flights of geese, swans, ducks, brant, and cranes have been passing up the river, ....

**Bray Edmund C. and Martha Coleman Bray. Joseph N. Nicollet On the Plains and Prairies**

p. 124 on September 18, 1838 at Cannon Lake near the present city of Faribault, Rice Co., MN

This picturesque scene was still heightened when a flight of Swans of about 8 or 10 were descending to navigate over this part of their favorite element..

**Russell, Osborne. Osborne Russell's Journal of a Trapper.....**

At mouth of Bear River at Great Salt Lake on April 2, 1842

p. 125. Here we found the ground dry the grass green and myriads of Swans, Geese Brants and Ducks which kept up a continual hum day and night assisted by the uncouth notes of the Sand hill Cranes. The geese Ducks and Swans are very fat at this season of the year.

In an appendix describing most of the mammals

p. 128 The Wolverine, Carcajou or Glutton

This Species of animals is very numerous in the Rocky Mountains and very mischievous and annoying to the Hunters..

**Gass, Partrick The Journals of Patrick Gass: A Member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.**

p. 144. October 30, 1805 near tidewater on the Columbia River

On our way down we saw a great many swans, geese and ducks....

p. 147 November 4, 1805 same place

We also passed a number of Indian lodges; and saw a great many swans, geese, ducks, cranes and gulls.

p.147. November 5, 1805 same place

At noon we stopped about an hour at an island, and some of the men went out and killed nine brants and a swan.

p. 148 November 8, 1805 same place

In it there are a great many swans, geese, ducks and other water fowls.

p. 153 November 20, 1805 same place

They killed a remarkably large buzzard, of a species different from any I had seen. It was 9 feet across the wings, and 3 feet 10 inches from the bill to the tail.

( a California Condor)

p. 169. March 16, 1806 At Fort Clapsop on the Willamette River

Yesterday while I was absent, getting our meat home, one of the hunters killed two vultures, the largest fowls I had ever seen. (condor)

**Tanner, J. 1975. A Narrrative of the Captivity and Adventures of John Tanner. E. James ed. Garland Publi, NY.**

in July on the Red River of the North near the mouth of the Assinneboin River.

p. 40 Here we caught great numbers of young geese, swans, and ducks; and I killed an elk.....

On Red River of the North in August

p. 46 This pond has no more than two or three feet of water, and great part of it is not one foot deep; but at this time its surface was covered with ducks, geese, swans, and other birds.

Same place

p. 55. I did so, and about sunset he returned, bringing plenty of meat, having killed two caribou.

Same place

p. 88. Speaking of the beaver At last I found that some kind of distemper was prevailing among these animals which destroyed them in vast numbers.

p. 206 near Lake of the Woods in August

Here I killed a fat swan, and was able to give my children some food.

p. 209 same place

The white crane, also, is dangerous if approached too near; they can, and sometimes do, inflict mortal wounds with their sharp beaks.

p. 308 in a listing of the Indian names of plants and animals of the region

Waw-be-zee Great Swan

Mah-nah-be-zee Smaller swan, not common. Their cry resembles the voice of a man.

The word means ugly or ill looking swan.

### **Field, Matt. Prairie & Mountain Sketches.**

At the Green River (WY) Rendezvous on July 31, 1943

p. 131 No, it's a wolverine, hey! And Antoine planted a shot in a little dark animal that was hiding among the sage bushes.....

### **Franklin, John. Narrative of a Journey to the shores of the Polar Sea, 1819, 20, 21 and 22.**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 1820 at Fort Chipewyan on Lake Athabaska

p.144. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of April the Indians saw some geese in the vicinity of this lake, but none of the migratory birds appeared near to the houses before the 15<sup>th</sup>, when some swans flew over. These are generally the first that arrive.....

p. 174 It was not before the 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> of April that the return of the swans, geese and ducks, gave certain indications of the advance of spring.

p. 697 in Dr. John Richardson's Zoology Appenix

The birds, which are common to the whole north, are so well known, and have been so perfectly described by the various systematic writers, that an enumeration of the names of the species will be a sufficient notice.

. Cygnus.....Wild Swan.

### **Carver, Jonathan. Travels through the Interior Parts of North America in the Years 1766, 1767, and 1768. DCB, MSU**

p. 55 at Lake Pepin in November 1, 1766

Great numbers of fowl frequent also this Lake and rivers adjacent such as storks, swans, geefe, brants, and ducks and in the groves are found great plenty of turkeys and partridges,

### **Henry, Alexander. New Light on the History of the Greater Northwest: The Manuscript Journals of Alexander Henry and of David Thompson, 1799-1814.**

On the Qu'Appelle River in Saskatchewan

p.4 On March 13, 1800 A flock of swans at my winter-quarters.

p. 84 On September 4, 1800 At the Pembina Hills in NE North Dakota

We came to two small lakes, which were covered with swans, geese, and ducks of various kinds; white and gray cranes were also numerous.

p. 88 On September 6, 1800 On the Red River of the North near the mouth of Park River

My people saw many raccoons in the course of the day, and shot four.

p.92 same place on September 9. I had seen on our way home a large flock of swans rise out of Red river, about a mile above camp,.....

p. 102 same place. On September 23. Last night great numbers of swans and geese passed, flying S., and this morning they continued.

p. 109 same place October 2. No noise was heard but that of swans and geese screaming, as they flew their way to warmer climates.

p. 115 same place. October 11. I killed a fat swan flying, and one of my men, being determined to eat it, took it up on his back.

P120. On Pembina River (a tributary of the Red River) on October 10. At Panbian river I killed a fat swan;

p. 124. At Park River fort on October 24. My hunter came in with his canoe, ringing two reed deer, a swan and some ducks.

p. 154. Same place. On November 18. We crossed on the ice.....Great numbers of swans were passing S. –almost one continuous flock the whole day; I was astonished to see so many.

p. 172 same place March 11, 1801. I also saw a swan.

p. 173 same place March 15. On the 15<sup>th</sup> we saw six swans and several outardes (Canada Geese) going N., and on the 17<sup>th</sup> had a terrible snowstorm; buffaloes near the fort. do

p. 174. On April 1...bearing great numbers of dead buffalo from above, which must have been drowned in attempting to cross while the ice was weak. ....The river clear of ice, but drowned buffalo continue to drift by entire herds. It is really astonishing what vast numbers have perished; they formed one continuous line in the current for two days and nights.

p. 195 On March 15, 1802 on Pembina River fort. Killed four cows; saw a swan, a turkey buzzard and a hawk –the first spring birds.

On April 16 Panbian river broke up. Wild fowl now plenty.

p. 213. On June 1. Pembina River fort. We take from 30 to 40 sturgeon a day. ( from a net at the mouth of the Pembina river.)

p. 229. On November 2 Pembina River fort Rain and snow; swans and geese passing S. in abundance.

p. 253. On November 25. Plains burned in every direction and blind buffalo seen every moment wandering about. The poor beasts have all the hair singed off; even the skin in many places is shriveled up and terribly burned, and their eyes are swollen and closed fast.

p. 291. On July 8, 1803. At the marshes near Lake Manitoba. At the season when swans and other birds shed their feathers, the Indians destroy great numbers by pursuing them in canoes and killing them with sticks.

p. 418 On August 11. In the Pembina Hills in NE North Dakota. We shot an old swan and caught two young ones that could not fly; this made us a comfortable supper.

p. 428. On March 4, 1808. Red River near Grand Forks, ND. Swans passing last night.

On March 22. Saw a flock of swans.

p. 429 On May 8 same place. In the course of 24 hours we caught in one net 120 sturgeon, weighing 60 to 150 lbs. Each.

p. 444 In a listing of provisions consumed at the Pembina River fort from September 11, 1807 to June 1, 1808 by 17 men, 10 women, 13 children and 45 dogs:

112 Cows (buffalo)

35 Bulls

3 Swans

1 White Crane

775 Sturgeon, weighing 50 to 150 lbs – much of these were given to the Indians.

On Lake Winnepig on August 16, 1808 I shot a white crane and a few ducks:

At Fort Vermillion - mouth of Vermillion and Saskatchewan April 10, 1809

Saw two swans.

On April 11, 1809

Saw nine swans; killed an outarde (Canada goose)

On May 20, 1809

Numerous flocks of white (*Chen hyperboreus*) and gray geese passed from S. to N.

At Fort Terre Blanche on July 23, 1809

Eleven Sarcees came from their camp with a few swan skins and trashy dried meat.

With him came Parenteau, Misquonogous, Parisien's son, and others; they brought 70 swanskins, killed in Lac Qui Fume, where they are tented. (Lac qui Fume, present Smoky L., about 15 miles west of Henry's post on the Saskatchewan River,)

July 30

Furs on hand to-day are: 292 beavers, weighing 337 lbs.; 208 swans; 70 martens; 24 dressed skins; 12 muskrats; 3 grizzly bears; 4 black bears; 1 yellow bear; 2 cubs; 5 loup-cerviers (lynx); 4 prime otters; 4 common otters; 1 fox; 1 wolverine; 1 mink; 1 buffalo robe.

p. 617 August 3

their trade is very trifling – a few swan skins, dressed skins, some indifferent dried meat and ducks of various kinds which, having shed their feathers, are easily killed with sticks in the numerous lakes and ponds.

p. 620 August 18

Ward also brought some swan skins.

p. 752 at Astoria on the mouth of the Columbia River November 17

We saw swans (*Olar buccinator* or *O. columbianus*), white and gray geese (*Chen hyperboreus* and *Anser albifrons gambeli*), outardes, gulls, etc, in abundance, and a great number of crabshells cast up on the beach.

p. 771 December 14

Saw great numbers of ducks, swans, and geese.

p. 775 December 23

An Indian came in with a few white geese and two swans.

p. 781 January 1, 1814 Fort George on the mouth of the Columbia River

We could scarcely collect liquor enough out of the kegs to give the men each one dram, but issued some rice, salt beef, and swans - all our means could afford.

p. 782 January 5

Calloph (Coalpo) arrived in a small, handsome wooden canoe, loaded with 13 swans and brailards, four outardes, two gray geese, and two stock-ducks;

P 808. January 19 at the Cascades of the Columbia river

Some extraordinarily large vultures (*Pseudogryphus californianus*) were hovering over camp.

p. 832 on the Willamette River on February 7

We saw several large flocks of swans flying up river, which, I am told is generally the case at this season, when they leave the seacoast for the interior.

**Fairholme, William. Journal of an expedition to the Grand Prairies of the Missouri 1840.**

Near St. Louis on August 30, 1840

The only chance I had was at an enormous golden eagle which came hovering over my waggon, ...

October 2, 1840 5 days west of Council Grove

This day was very fine but with a slight frosty feeling, and we began to see great numbers of wild swans, geese & cranes high up in the air, .....

October 6, 1840 on the Arkansas River valley

All round us the grass was exceedingly high, so much so in some places to conceal a man on horseback.

**Carver, Jonathan. The Journals of Jonathan Carver and Related Documents 1766-1770**

p. 95 on the Minnesota River winter of 1766-1767

For a space (all the way when I was on this river) between the meadows and the plains is thousands of acres of marsh land where grows vast quantities of Indian rice where the Nasudowessee (Dakota) get their supplies and cannot gather the hundredth part which is a great means of a vast resort of all sorts of water fowl in spring and fall (swans, geese and ducks, storks, cormorants, a few parrots and many other species.)

Keating, William H. 1824. Narrative of an Expedition to the Source of St. Peter's River....Performed in the Year 1823.

June 1823 near present day Chicago The birds we saw today consisted of prairie hens or grouse (*Tetrao cupido*), reed-birds (*Emberiza oryzivora*, Wilson), sand-hill cranes (*Grus caandensis*), curlews, &.

On Rock river between Chicago and the Mississippi. We frequently observed the majestic sandhill-crane (*Grus Canadensis*), striding across the prairie.

On the route from Chicago to Fort Crawford we saw but one deer, at which however, we had no opportunity of shooting. We likewise observed but a single wolf, which was of the kind called Prairie Wolf. If to these we add the badger, which was killed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June, we shall have the list of the only quadrupeds seen upon upwards of two hundred miles of prairie land. The extreme scarcity of game in a country so remote from a white population as this is, must be striking to every observer.....

On the Minnesota River in mid July In the evening, the party encamped on the bank of a small pool, which forms one of a group of ponds dignified with the appellation of the Swan Lakes, on account of the abundance of these birds said to exist in their neighborhood.

Near Lake Traverse in July Some of the gentlemen of the party went to the Indian camp, and were rewarded for their pains by eating of the swan's meat, which we had not yet had an opportunity of tasting; they found it very indifferent.

In a listing of the furs traded at Fort Pembina They might in addition to these collect a large quantity of buffalo, grizzly bear, wolf, hare, rabbit, swan, and prairie wolf.

At St. Peter post ( Travers Lake – MN-SD border)

Swan 120 skins

At Lake of the Woods swans, it is said, do not exist on this lake;

**Comer, George. An Arctic Whaling Diary – the Journal of Captain George Comer in Hudsons Bay 1903-5.**

Near Cape Kendall, NWT on July 5, 1904

We have remained here today and have the natives go hunt for deer. They only got one. My men got quite a few eggs, such as king eider, three swan's eggs in one nest (yesterday got two in one nest),, also small bird nest with eggs.

November 21, 1904 at Cape Fullerton, NWT – NW side of Hudson Bay

The thickness of the ice today was nineteen inches. (By April it was 75 inches.)

November 22, 1904 same place

They got one seal and eleven ducks. Large numbers of duck remain here wherever they find open water near reefs during the winter.

(In fact they shot ducks all winter long in both winters)

Bay of Gods Mercy, NWT July 1, 1905

Got six swans' eggs, two loons' eggs, some native implements.

July 3, 1905 same place

Got three swan eggs.

**Larocque, Francois-Antoine. The Journal of Francois-Antoine Larocque from the Assiniboine River to the Yellowstone – 1805.** IN Raymond Wood and Thomas D. Thiessen Early Fur Trade on the Northern Plains.

Near the Souris River in north central North Dakota Wednesday June 5, 1805

p. 162 Here we saw plenty of wild fowls, Duck, Bustards, Geese, Swans etc. And killed a number of them.

On the Upper reaches of the Tongue River Wednesday August 14, 1805

p. 183. I saw a few Cranes.

**Pattie, J. O. 1831. Personal Narrative of James O. Pattie of Kentucky.** Timothy Flint, ed. MSU, BSC

p. 149 on the Red River in southern California

The land is exceedingly marshy, and is the resort of numerous flocks of swans, and blue cranes.

**Catlin, George. Letters and Notes on the Manners, Customs and Condition of the North American Indians.**

On the Missouri two days below the mouth of the Yellowstone in mid July 1833

p. 68 vol 1

At this spot the river expands itself into the appearance somewhat of a beautiful lake; and in the midst of it, and on and about its sand-bars, floated and stood, hundreds and thousands of white swans and pelicans.

Vol 2.p. 3 Leavenworth, Kansas July 1834

In addition to the opportunity which this descending Tour has afforded me, of visiting all the tribes of Indians on the river, and leisurely filling my portfolio with the beautiful scenery which its shores present -- the sportsman's fever was roused and satisfied; the swan, ducks, geese, and pelicans—the deer, antelope, elk, and buffaloes, were stretched by our rifles; and some times – pull boys pull!! a war party ! for your lives pull! or we are gone!”

p. 129 Fort Snelling – Twin Cities area- probably June 1836

Having recruited my health during the last winter, in recreation and amusements on the Coast of Florida, like a bird of passage I started, at the rallying notes of the swan and the wild goose, for the cool and freshness of the North, but the gifted passengers soon left me behind. I found them here, their nests built---their eggs hatched—their offspring fledged and figuring in the world, before I arrived.

p. 177 St. Peters River (Minnesota River) 40-50 miles east of Pipe Stone Quarry – an American Fur Company post

We can give you plenty of buffalo meat, buffalo tongues, wild geese, ducks, prairie hens, venison, trout, young swan, beaver tails, pigeons, plums, grapes, young bear, some green corn, squash, onions, water-melons, and pommes des terres, some coffee and some tea.

**Austin, Elizabeth. Frank M. Chapman in Florida: His Journal and Letters.**

Gainesville, FL December 2, 1886

Reaching an orange grove of 160 acres owned by some “northerners” we called out the man in charge, an aged colored man who lives the year around, near the center of the grove.

**Palliser, John. 1853. Solitary rambles and adventures of a hunter in the prairies.**

April 16, 1848 at Fort Berthold – near Washburn, ND

The snow now began rapidly to pass away and the smaller rivers and springs were open; ducks, geese, outardes (Canada Geese) and swans came hovering over our heads.

**Back, George. Narrative of an Arctic Land Expedition to the mouth of the Great Fish River and along the Shores of the Arctic Ocean, in the years 1833, 1834 and 1835.** August 17, 1832 on the east side of Great Slave Lake

p. 110. The one, however, with the islands at its entrance, which is laid down as running into Christies's Bay - ... - is often visited by them in the spring, for the purpose of shooting swans, with which at that season it abounds.

p. 464 at Fort Resolution on Great Slave Lake By the 15<sup>th</sup> (May) swans, geese and different kinds of ducks appeared in large flocks, .....

John Richardson, M.D. has a description of the Flora and Fauna in an Appendix.

p.513 Trumpeter Swan (Cygnus buccinator) F. B. A. 2 p. 464



This swan, the first of the water-fowl that revisits the fur countries in the spring, is hailed with delight by the Indians as the harbinger of plenty, for the geese and ducks shortly follow, and abundance reigns in the encampments of the natives for a few weeks. The trumpeter swan, even on its first arrival, is generally seen in pairs, seldom in flocks, and it frequents eddies under water-falls, and other 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 60<sup>th</sup> 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 1/2 N on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October.

**Gates, Charles M. ed. Five Fur Traders of the Northwest Being the Narrative of Peter Pond and the Diaries of John Macdonell, Archibald N. McLeod, High Faries, and Thomas Connor**

Near Lake Winnipeg on September 10, 1793

p. 110 Slept opposite to a large morass or swamp in the plains which resounded all night with the various cries of Swans, geese, Ducks, etc.

p. 116 Describing a long list of vertebrates occurring in that locality along the Assiniboine River

The waterfowls are Pelicans, swans of two kinds, Gray or Bustard Geese of two kinds....

p. 131 at Fort Alexandria on the upper waters of the Assiniboine River 19 November 1800

a young Indian kill'd a Swan in the River close by the House, the poor Bird had at least Six pound of ice sticking to one of its wings,-- it kept in the rapids as the only part not covered with ice, & no doubt would soon have perished with the Cold tho' no very poor. Same place March 13, 1801

A charming day, the Indians set off, we saw a Swan today passing over the Fort from East to west.

Same Place March 15, 1801

p. 164 It certainly is the finest day I ever experienced in this County, at this Season, the little birds sing, Eagles & Swans fly about & even Butterflies, &

Same place April 7, 1801

p. 170 Cadotte killed a Swan today

Same place April 9, 1801

p. 171 I saw some Geese today for the first time this season Swans are very numerous about the place, ...

**Tyrrell, Joseph Burr. The Journals of Samuel Hearne and Philip Turnor.**

On Hay River 12 days out from York Factory

- p. 101 July 5, 1774 This day killd several Molting Swans which is the first thing has been killd since we left the Fort  
At Cumberland House on Pine Island Lake near present day Edmonton
- p. 145 April 10, 1775 This day several swanns flew Past us to the Northward which is the first we have seen this Season; but the Indians Informs me that they saw and killd some Swanns, about the 24<sup>th</sup> of last Month
- p. 146 April 14 Many Swanns have been seen these 2 or 3 Days past but none have been killd here as Yet
- p. 147 April 23 The home Indian went ahunting and kill'd 2 Swanns
- p. 148 May 1 The home Ind went ahunting and killd 2 Swanns & one Goose
- p. 151 May 20 In the Evening the home Indian and our man Return'd with 19 Geese and 2 Swans
- p. 152 May 26 in the evening the home Indian and our man Return'd and brought 7 Geese and 4 Swanns
- p. 182 October 1 ....one Cannoe of Indians came with a few Geeese and 2 Swans,..... on the Methy river
- p. 373 June 5, 1791 the Indians killed 4 Swans 2 Geese 1 Beaver and a few Ducks..... near Athabaska Lake
- p. 378 June 9, 1791 got 5 Geese, 3 ducks and a swan from the Indians....
- p. 379 June 10 this day got 1 Beaver, 1 swan & 1 Goose from the Chepawyans
- p. 379 June 11 The Chepawyans killed a Moose and some geese and swans at this place
- p. 380 June 12 ... and full of grssy swamps fine harbour for Swans Geese Ducks &...
- p. 404 July 6 ..got 1 swan, 8 old and 24 young Geese from the Indians.
- p. 409 July 11 got 1 swan 21 young and 11 old Geese from the Chepawyans
- p. 412 July 18..he returned with 5 Swans of which we got Four... near Great Slave Lake
- p. 413. July 18 Got 4 Swanns 30 young and 5 old Geese from the Indians
- p. 414 July 19 there are fine Grassy Plains with ledges of woods aout which there are plenty of Buffalo and Moose, great quantities of Geese breed about this river and in the Plains the Cranes blue brown and white are Plenty beyond belief.  
Footnote Fidler Slave River .. one part of the river which was nearly 1/3 mile wide, were full from bank to bank quite across the river and upwards of 70 yards wide, all of young geese that could not fly, with the old ones in the same predicament, that they appeared at a little distance as if the river was quite choked up with floating drift wood - Great Slave Lake
- p. 422 July 30 the Indian brought 1 swan and 7 Geese got 6 fish from the net near Stone (Black) River between Athabaska and Black Lakes
- p. 434 August 22 and found no place to pitch our tent except over an old Swans nest which made us a comfortable bed near Lake Athabaska
- p. 453 May 4, 1792 I killed a Swan a few Geeese and Ducks which was acceptable to us near Cumberland or Sturgeon Lake
- p. 487 July 1 M' Ross killed 1 Beaver and 2 Swans self 1 Swan
- p. 489 July 9 killed 2 swans this day near Great Slave Lake
- p. 500 September 13, 1791 In the morning shot one  $\frac{3}{4}$  Beaver, one Swan and one Goose

p. 509 October 5, 1791 Killed one Swan

p. 519 October 31, 1791 Several Swans & Ducks to be seen & not half an Inch Snow upon the ground

general - they lived on porcupine, beaver, moose and buffalo near Great Slave Lake

**Nicollet, Joseph Nicolas The Journals of Joseph N Nicollet: A Scientist on the Mississippi Headwaters**

on the Mississippi near Swan River

p. 47 It is long and connects with a lake (Big Swan Lake) of the same name. Both continue to be abundant with swans as they have been since time immemorial.

p. 62 Yesterday, as we crossed Gull Lake we noticed on some little rocks which form two small islands ospreys, bitterns, gulls, pelicans, cormorants, and all those species which live on fish and reptiles and which abound in this lake.

p. 246 But as we passed along the edge of the island, we disturbed some deer, elk, geese, cranes, gulls, and some swans which were all eating peacefully near the shore.

p.250 Game – several kinds of ducks, bustard geese, pelicans, loons, gulls, fish hawks, bald eagles, wolves, bears, fishers, muskrats, minks, raccoons, foxes, martens, porcupines, ground hogs or woodchucks, weasels, red, striped and flying squirrels, and three species of turtles, one of which is ten to fourteen inches large.

**Henry, Alexander 1897. New Light on the Early History of the Greater Northwest,**  
ed. Elliot Coues

On Lake Winnipeg on August 16, 1808

p. 457 I shot a white crane and a few ducks;

On the Saskatchewan River near Edmonton

p. 615 Eleven Sarcees came from their camp with a few swanskins and trashy dried meat.

p. 616 Furs on hand today are: 292 beavers, weighing 337 lbs.; 208 swans; 70 martens; 24 dressed skins; 12 muskrats; 3 grizzly bears; 4 black do; 1 yellow do; 1 fox; 1 wolverine; 1 mink; 1 buffalo robe.

**Russell, Osborne. 1914. Journal of a Trapper, 1834-1843.**

In the mountains near Utah Lake in February 1838

p. 119 At sunrise I started on foot to get my meat and left my rifle about half way down the Mountain when I came to where the first sheep had been hung in a tree I discovered a large Wolverine sitting at the foot of it I then regretted leaving my rifle but it was too late he saw me and took to his heels as well he might for he had left nothing behind....

p. 128 Wolverine. This Species of animals is very numerous in the Rocky Mountains and very mischievous and annoying to the Hunters.

**In 1587, John White:**

“The sixt of Julie wee came to the Islande Cayco.....Others spent the latter part of that day in other parts of the Island.....some fowling, some hunting Swannes, whereof we caught many. The next daye earely in the morning we waied anker, leaving the Caycos, with good hope, the first lande that wee sawe next, should be Virginia. About the 16 of July we fell with maine of Virginia.....”(in Quinn and Quinn, 1985 The First Colonists, N.C. Dept. of Cultural Resources)

There is no other species that this could be other than the trumpeter swan, presuming that tundra swans vacated the Atlantic seaboard then as they do now in spring and summer. It is interesting that he uses the phrase “whereof we caught”. That implies flightlessness, either as cygnets or moulting adults or both.

I have seen the salt ponds on Great Inagua that were previously freshwater marshes, the freshwater marshes elsewhere in the Bahamas and also the freshwater marshes on Grenada. The Caicos are an extension of the Bahamas and using Goggle Earth the extensive ponds and marshes are obvious on the Caicos Islands. Trumpeters could have easily had good habitat in the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos. DAH

### **The Original Journal of Charles Larpenteur**

In a listing of pelts traded at Fort Assiniboine  
5 Swan Skins

A temporary post established on the Missouri west of Fort Union when the Steamboat Assiniboine became stranded in 1834. It was abandoned in 1835.

### **A Vast and Open Plain - The Writings of the Lewis and Clark Expedition in North Dakota;** Clay S. Jenkinson ed.

Clark October 19, 1804 near Huff, ND

Our Hunters killed 4 Elk 6 Deer & a pelican, I saw Swans in a Pond & Killed a fat Deer in my walk,

Clark November 12 at Fort Mandan

Swans passing to the South,.....

Clark November 15 at Fort Mandan

Swans passing to the South.....

Clark Remarks November 17, 1804 at Fort Mandan

Swans passing from the north

Clark March 24, 1805 at Fort Mandan

Saw Swan passing NE.

Saw Swans & wild Gees flying NE this evening.

Lewis in a letter to his mother dated March 31, 1805

Between the Osage and Kansas rivers

The deer were more abundant; a great number of black bear, some turkies, geese, swan and ducks; from thence to the mouth of the Great river Platte, an emence quantity of deer, some bear, Elk, turkies, gees, swan and ducks.

Lewis April 10, 1805

Clark walked on shore today.....he also saw some gees and swan....

Clark April 10

I Saw Several Antilope on the S. S. also gees & Swan.....

Lewis April 11

.....saw some large white cranes pass up the river...lengthy description of Whooping Cranes....

Clark April 11

Saw great numbers of Gees Brandt & Mallard Some White Cranes Swan & guls.....

Lewis April 13 describing an oxbow lake near Shell Creek

....there were a great number of Swan and gees in this lake.....

This lake and it's discharge we call goos Egg from the circumstance of Capt Clark shooting a goose while on her nest in the top of a lofty cottonwood tree, from which we afterwards took one egg. The wild gees frequently build their nests in this manner.....

Clark April 17 near today's Tobacco Garden Creek

I Saw Swan Gees & different kinds of Ducks in great numbers also a Beaver house.

Lewis April 21

.....the valley was covered with Elk and buffaloe, saw a great number of gees today as usual, also some swan and ducks.

Clark April 21

.....Saw an emence number of Elk & Buffalo, also Deer Antelopes Geese Ducks & a fiew swan.....

Ordway April 26, 1805

.....one man killed a White Swan in a large pond 4 or 5 miles from this, between the two Rivers.

Lewis April 27, 1805

The bald Eagle are more abundant here than I ever observed them in any part of the country.

Clark April 27, 1805 at the confluence of Yellowstone and Missouri

.....saw great numbers of Goats or antilopes, Elk, Swan Gees & Ducks, no buffalow to day.

Lewis August 9, 1805 near Grayling, MT – I saw several bald eagles and two large white headed fishing hawks,.....

Whitehouse April 27, 1805 an oxbow lake at the ND & Montana border

One of our Hunters that was out Yesterday informed us that at the upper end of it, that it was almost cover'd with Geese, Swans & other Waterfowl.

Ambrose, Stephen. Undaunted Courage – a biography of Meriwether Lewis.

On July 30 1804 at the mouth of the Platte River. There were swans in a nearby pond.

On November 4, 1805. At the mouth of the Willamette River The lake was teeming with swans, brants, geese and ducks. Lewis' party killed three swans, eight brants and five ducks.

### **Audubon's Journals - 1843**

May 16 Tuesday near the Vermillion River

They met Mr. Cerre who Told me that game was abundant, such as Elk, Deer, and Bear; but that Ducks, Geese, and Swans were extremely rare this season.

June 5 Monday just north of the mouth of the Cannonball River

We saw two swans alighting on the prairie at a considerable distance.

June 6 Tuesday south of the Mandan village

As we proceeded I saw two White Headed Eagles alighting on their nest, where perhaps they had young – and how remarkably late in the season this species does breed here.

June 7 About 16 miles below the Mandan village

We have seen not less than three nests of the White Headed Eagle this day.

June 8 Thursday north of the Mandan village

We saw two Swans on a bar and a female Elk, with her young fawn for a few minutes.

June 9 Friday north of the mouth of the Little Missouri River

Meantime, gazing around, we saw a large lake where we are told that Ducks, Geese and Swans breed in great numbers; this we intend to visit when we come down.

At Ft. Union on the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers.

August 9, 1843 These nine Indians fed for three days on the flesh of only a single Swan.

August 17 near Fort Union

Saw three Bighorns, some Antelopes, and many Deer, fully twenty; one Wolf, twenty-two Swans, many Ducks.

October 3

Plenty of Sandhill Cranes were seen as we passed the Little Sioux River. Saw three more Deer, another Wolf, two Swans, several pelicans, and abundance of Geese and Ducks.

In the Epidodes

Breaking Up of the Ice – autumn 1810 - Tawapatee Bottoms north of the mouth of the Ohio on the Mississippi River

We soon found employment, however, for the woods were full of game; and Deer, Turkeys, Raccoons, and Opossums might be seen even around our camp; while on the ice that now covered the broad stream rested flocks of Swans to surprise which the hungry wolves were at times seen to make energetic but unsuccessful efforts. It was curious to see the snow-white birds all lying flat on the ice, but keenly intent on watching the motions of their insidious enemies, until the latter advanced within the distance of a few hundred yards, when the Swans, sounding their trumpet-notes of alarm, would all rise, spread out their broad wings, and after running some yards and battering the ice until the noise was echoed like thunder through the woods, rose exultingly into the air, leaving their pursuers to devise other schemes for gratifying their craving appetites.

May on the Bay of Fundy not dated

The prudent Raven spread her pinions, launched from the cliff, and flew away before us; the Gold Eagle, soaring aloft, moved majestically along in wide circles; the Guillemots sat on their eggs upon the shelving precipices,

Harris, Edward Up the Missouri with Audubon, the Journal of Edward Harris  
Monday March 20, 1843 White-fronted Goose in the market – here called Brandt. At  
Louisville, KY

Saturday March 25<sup>th</sup> Canada && White-fronted Goose abundant in the Mississippi.  
mouth of the Ohio.

Wednesday April 5. Hunted grouse today on the Ridge Prairie 4 miles E. of  
Edwardsville, (IL) found them scarce and exceedingly wild, killed 2. Males have the  
bareskin on the side of the neck extremely loose, and extended, colour bright orange (it is  
now the blowing season).... (Greater Prairie Chicken)

April 8. Bell shot one young Snow Goose, and three White-fronted Geese.....Squires  
went down the Am (erican) bottom 7 miles and sent home two Sandhill Cranes.

In a listing of birds and mammals seen:

Trumpeter swan  
Whooping Crane  
Wolverine

**From Audubon, John James *Ornithological Biography* as quoted in Mary Durant  
and Michael Harwood, 1980. *On the Road with John James Audubon***

Audubon thought the flesh of the cygnet “pretty good eating” but adult swan not so good;

Audubon went hunting swans on Swan Lake near Hendersonville, Kentucky with a group  
of Shawnee Indians

There they lie, by hundreds, of a white or rich cream colour –either dipping their black  
bills in the water or leaning backwards, and gently resting with one leg expanded floating  
along and basking the in the sunshine. The moment that these beautiful birds saw our  
videtters (the first scouts), they started up in immediate apprehension: ---but the plan of  
our Indians drove the poor swans the nearer to their fate, the farther they retreated from  
either shore. Men were placed behind trees, who knew how to take a dead aim, and every  
shot told. ....I saw these beautiful birds floating on the water, their backs downwards,  
their heads under the surface and their legs in the air, struggling in the last agonies of life,  
to number of at least fifty -- their beautiful skins all intended for the ladies of Europe.

Later around the juncture of the Ohio and Mississippi:

No sooner did the gloom of night become discernible through the gray twilight than the  
loud-sounding notes of hundreds of Trumpeters would burst on the ear; and as I gazed  
over the ice bound river , flocks after flocks would be seen coming from afar and in  
various directions, and alighting about the middle of the stream.....After pluming  
themselves awhile (remember, we are talking about birds that –standing wings folded –  
are about the height of an average North American twelve-year-old boy) they would  
quietly drop their bodies on the ice, and through the dim light I could yet observe the  
graceful curve of their necks, as they gently turned them backward, to allow their heads  
to repose upon the softest and warmest of pillows. ....The day quite closed by darkness,

no more could be seen until the next day; but as often as the howlings of the numerous wolves that prowled through the surrounding woods were heard, the clanging cries of the swans would fill the air. If the morning proved fair, the flocks would rise on their feet, trim their plumage, and as they started with wings extended, as if racing in rivalry, the pattering of their feet would come on the ear like the noise of great muffled drums, accompanied by the loud and clear sounds of their voices. On running 50 yards so to windward, they would all be on wing.

Roughly the same place”

We remained here six weeks --- we had plenty of company from our Indian friends, with whiskey and food in abundance; but our stock of bread began to give way, and we got tired of using breast of wild turkeys for bread, and bear oil instead of meat. The raccoons and opossums, however tender, were at last disliked.....

### **Kurz journal Ft. Union**

p. 239

April 17, 1852

I made a visit to the press room to jot down the names of different wild animals in this section for the pelts stored there provide a rather complete list of those four-footed beasts which are native here. ....

I also came upon a wolverine’s skin.....goes on to describe it.

### **John C. Luttig Journal of a Fur-Trading Expedition on the Upper Missouri: 1812-1813** Fort Clark – among the Mandan/Arikara villages

p. 93 16 November 1812 ...traded some Meat and 1 white Bear Skin of them.....

p.100 11 December 1812 we had traded with the Cheyenne .....7 white Bear...(Grizzly).....

### **Thaddeus Culbertson 1850**

p. 4 Spencer Baird in a letter to his brother William listed some of the specimens brought back by Culbertson .....wolverine.....

p. 57 Joe, a hunter at Ft. Pierre, told Culbertson that Grizzly Bears did not occur north of the Missouri River.. Culbertson saw fresh tracks in the Bad Lands.

p. 114 June 21 near the mouth of the Milk River. ....I saw the first Grizzly Bear of the season

p. 130 A list of birds and mammals found on the Missouri River between Ft. Leavenworth and Ft. Union by Edward Harris in 1843 when Harris accompanied

Audubon

Trumpeter swan

Wolverine

Fisher



The “old” French name for wolverine carcajou

### **Edwin Thompson Denig – The Assiniboine 1833 to 1856 on the upper Missouri**

p. 411 Wolves are very plentiful and of three kinds, the large white wolf, the large grayback wolf, and the small prairie wolf, all a good deal hunted.....

p. 583 Denig presents a list of animals eaten by the Indians including Glutton (Wolverine)

### **Denig – Five Indian Tribes of the Upper Missouri**

p. xviii In a list of specimens prepared by Denig and Culbertson includes a wolverine skin

p. 10 describing the Grand River in South Dakota – The fertile coulees are the home of blacktail deer and the woods that of red deer.

p. 13 describing the animals inhabiting the Sioux districts - black and white tailed deer.....

p. 119 three kinds of wolves – same as in Assiniboine

p. 139 ...bands of deer both of the black tailed and white tailed species...

### **Maximilian, Prince of Wied’s Travels in the Interior of North America 1832-1834**

p. 81 ....in the immediate vicinity of Bethlehem (PA) there are now not even any deer.

p. 99 .....as deer and pheasants abound in the forests. (in the Pokonos)

p. 136 A young man who lived in the forest, some miles off, told me that bears, stags and other wild animals, were very numerous, particularly the pheasant or cock of the wood.. (*Tetrao umbellus*), one of which we shot. He is near Ebensburg in Cambria County and his pheasant is a ruffed grouse..

p. 201 The kingfisher, the wild duck and red-breasted goose, were numerous in the wild, romantic willow islands. He is on the Ohio River near Mount Vernon, IL on March 19, 1832.

p. 265 There are many sand banks in the river, on which there were numbers of wild geese and some quite white birds, with black quill feathers – perhaps cranes or pelicans. on May 3 near the mouth of the Platte River

p. 297 This may be considered as the limit to which the wild turkey extends on the Missouri. May 16, near Wheeler, South Dakota

p. 334 .....as well as a great many wolves, often three or four together, most of them white. near the Grand River in South Dakota on June 10

p. 340 .....we saw white wolves trotting about on them, and some swans were swimming in the river. A couple of miles above the Cannonball River in North Dakota June 15

p. 366 ..... they had shot two Virginian deer, an antelope and a prairie hen McLean Co., North Dakota June 20

p. 368 A white wolf accompanies the steam-boat as it proceeded. ....we saw wild animals of various kinds, such as buffaloes, elks, and Virginian deer. Near New Town, North Dakota. June 22

p. 391...Assiniboinas...as they live at a distance from the red pipe clay, the bowls of their pipes are generally made of a blackish stone, or black clay,..... at Fort Union.

### **The Journals of Captain Nathaniel J. Wyeth's Expeditions to the Oregon country 1831-1836**

Preface: Also: white bear means grizzly bear.

p. 31 there are a great number of fowl on this river at this time and there will be more as they saw soon there are large swan white geese a goose with a mottled breast and yellow bill a trifle smaller than the goose of N.E. A white goose almost exactly like the domestic goose of N.E. yellow feet and legs as also the former there is another goose like that of N.E.. but I think the smaller there is the tame duck of N.E. with 19 tail feathers and a fine duck to eat there is the grey duck of N.E. green winged teal Buffleheads Cape Races Dippers of the Sea loons seal deer on the Columbia River below Vancouver in December 1832

p. 64 I here saw a small sturgeon but they are very rare. Cat fish are good and plenty on the Missouri at Fort Union

p. 66 It was a beautiful still night the stillness interrupted only by the neighing of the Elk the continual low of the Buffaloe which we came to soon after starting the hooting of large owls and the screeching of small ones and occasionally the nearer noise of a beaver gnawing a tree or splashing into the water and even the gong like sound of the swan  
September 4 1833 near Fort Clarke on the Missouri

p. 68 ... saw Powquet (Carolina parakeet) the first since leaving the states. Three days upstream from Council Bluffs September 17, 1833

.....saw wild turkeys this evening.... Two days upstream from Council Bluffs.  
September 18, 1833

p. 91 Saw for the first time on this route swans they appear plenty here January 4, 1835 on the Columbia near River des Shutes

.....killed 2 swans so fat that we could not eat all the grease a rear thing in this country.  
January 6, 1835

..killed one swan which would weigh I should think 35 lbs to fat to eat..... January 7, 1835

p. 92 .....saw only two swans could not kill them.....January 12, 1835

p. 93 ..on the way down saw 5 swan the first since the 12 but killed nothing but 3 ducks  
January 15, 1835

Killed 4 ducks and one swan today the latter would weigh at least 45 lbs. January 16, 1835

### **William H. Ashley –Rocky Mountain Papers – diary and a narrative – 1825**

On the Platte River

p. 19 ....and in some places literally covered with game such as Buffaloe, White and Black tailed Deer, Grizzly, Red and White Bear, Elk, Prairie Dog, wild Goat, Big horned mountain Sheep, Antelope, etc.

p. 26 .. and literally covered with game of almost every kind.

### **Washington Irving's ASTORIA**

p. 139 - After a year on the Columbia River Irving described the climate, soils, forests and animal life as

“The principal quadrupeds that had been seen by the colonists in their various expeditions were the stag, fallow deer, hart, black and grizzly bear, antelope, bighorn, beaver, sea and river otter, muskrat, fox, wolf and panther, the latter extremely rare. The country abounded with aquatic and land birds, such as swans, wild geese, vultures, crows, ravens, magpies, woodpeckers, pigeons, partridges, pheasants, grouse, and a great variety of singing birds.”

p. 164 on the upper reaches of the Snake River about the border of Idaho and Wyoming Ben Jones, also, killed a fallow deer and a wolverine,, .....

p. 182 on the upper reaches of the Platte River Wild geese abounded, and they passed extensive swamps that were alive with innumerable flocks of water-fowl, among which were a few swans, but an endless variety of ducks.

### **Journal of a Voyage Up the Missouri River, in 1811 – Henry Marie Brackenridge**

p. 9 April 20 a few miles below Wizzard's Island .....fired upon a flock of several pelicans, standing on a shoal. These birds abound very much on the Missouri, but are shy. –We daily kill wild fowl, ducks, geese, brandt, etc. –which ascend the river at this season of the year, to breed. Their eggs are found at every moment, on the sand bars.

p. 10 April 24 While Castor was out, he saw a white turkey, but was not so fortunate as to kill it. I am told that they have sometimes been seen of this color;

p. 13 April 30 just below Buffalo Island During the whole of the day, we saw astonishing quantities of game on shore; particularly deer and turkeys.

p. 24 June 8 a few miles above the Cheyenne River in South Dakota Game is very abundant—elk, deer, buffaloe, without number.

p. 33 June 23 just below the Mandan villages in North Dakota ..we landed and went in pursuit of some buffaloe. The whole surface of the country appeared covered with them.

### **A Journey to the Rocky Mountains in 1839, F. A. Wislizenus, MD**

p. 44 along the Platte River We now saw game daily, especially antelope, of which our hunters shot one. Many water birds were also about. The birds we had seen hitherto consisted chiefly of prairie chicken, lark, snipe, and a small kind of starling that was continuously swarming around us, and was so tame that it would at times sit on our pack animals while on the march. Here we got sight chiefly of water birds, such as ducks, geese, cranes, pelicans, gulls, and some very large kinds of snipe.

p. 69 a general comment during a discussion on the beaver in the Bear River Valley. A persistent enemy of the beaver is the wolverine (*Gulo Luseus*), a sort of glutton who attacks not only the winter supplies of the beavers, but often the beavers themselves.

p. 76 September 28 along the Arkansas River near Walnut and Ash Creeks All sorts of water birds swarmed around from all sides. Never have I seen together such quantities of swans, cranes, pelicans, geese and ducks as were here. The swamp was fairly covered with them, .....

**Catlin's Letters and Notes on the Manners, Customs and Conditions of North American Indians-** summer of 1838

Letter No. 10 – Mandan Village

During a trip down the Missouri for about 200 miles from the mouth of the Yellowstone in a canoe:

At this spot the river expands itself into the appearance somewhat of a beautiful lake: and in the midst of it, and on and about its sandbars, floated and stood, hundreds and thousands of white swans and pelicans.

Letter No. 32 near Fort Leavenworth in summer of 1832 going down the Missouri from Ft. Union to St. Louis with two laborers in a canoe

.....the sportsman's fever was roused and satisfied; the swan, ducks, geese, and pelicans –the deer, antelope, elk, and buffaloes, were "stretched" by our rifles;.....

Letter No. 54 Red Pipestone Quarry

At the trading house of Monsieur La Fromboise, an American Fur Company post 40-50 miles east or down the Minnesota River from the pipestone quarry

Monsieur explaining "I am very sorry, gentlemen that I can not treat you as I would be glad to do; but you must make up for these things if you are fond of sporting, for there are plenty of buffaloes about; at a little distance the prairies are speckled with them ; and our prairies and lakes abound with myriads of prairie hens, ducks, geese and swan."

**Journal of Peter Skene Ogden: Snake Expedition, 1826-7**

Near Harney Lake in Oregon November 4 At Evening, we camped near three small lakes. Swans numerous. Tho' 100 shots fired, not one killed.

**A Short History of a Long Journey from the Atlantic Ocean to the Region of the Pacific. Drawn up from the Notes and Oral Information of John B. Wyeth,** one of the party who left Mr. Nathaniel J. Wyeth, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1832, Four Days March Beyond the Ridge of the Rocky Mountains, and the only One Who has Returned to New England.

p. 92 high in the mountains east of the Great Salt Lake on February 3 .....when I came to where the first sheep had been hung in a tree I discovered a large Wolverine sitting at the foot of it. I then regretted leaving my rifle but it was too late.....

In a description of the major mammals of the Rocky Mountains:

p. 96 THE WOLVERINE, CARCAJOU OR GLUTTON This Species of animals is very numerous in the Rocky Mountains and very mischievous and annoying to the Hunters. They often get into the traps setting for Beaver or searching out the deposits of meat which the weary hunter has made during a toilsome days hunt.....Its body is

about three feet long and stands fifteen inches high its colour is black except along the sides which are of a dirty white or light brown.....

### **Three Years Among the Indians and Mexicans by Thomas James**

In the Three Forks Area

p. 17 ... These and the mountain sides were dark with Buffalo, Elk, Deer, Moose, wild Goats and wild Sheep; some grazing, some lying down under the trees and all enjoying a perfect millenium of peace and quiet. On the margin the swan, geese, and pelicans, cropped the grass or floated on the surface of the water.

### **Startling Scenes and Perilous Adventures in the Far West during an Expedition of Three Years by Rufus B. Sage 1841-1843**

p. 124 between the Colorado River and the Sierra Nevada

Game exists in great abundance, among which are included antelope, deer, (black and white-tailed,) elk, bear, and immense quantities of waterfowls; large herds of wild horses and cattle,.....

p. 131 near the headwaters of the Tulare and Sacramento Rivers

Among the different varieties are enumerated deer, (black-tailed and white-tailed) elk, antelope, goats, bear, (black, red, and grizzly) beaver, geese, brants, ducks, and grouse, with wild horses and cattle; buffalo are unknown to the Province.

### **The Prairie Traveler by Randolph Barnes Marcy, Captain U.S.A.**

Texas through New Mexico to California 1858-59...

Presents detailed descriptions on buffalo, deer, antelope, bear, and big horn.

### **A Narrative of a Voyage to Northwest Coast of America the years 1811, 1812, 1813, and 1814 by Gabriel Franchere.**

Near the mouth of the Columbia River:

p. 80 We left Astoria on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October with a small assortment of merchandise. The trip was highly successful, we found the game very abundant, killed a great quantity of swans, ducks, foxes, etc. and returned to Astoria on the 20<sup>th</sup> with a part of our venison, wild fowl, and bear meat, besides seven hundred and fifty smoked salmon,.....

along the Columbia River:

The principal quadrupeds of the country are the elk, the black and white tailed deer; four species of bear, distinguished chiefly by the color of the fur or poil, to wit, the black, brown, white and grisly bear; the grisly bear is extremely ferocious; the white is found on the seashore toward the north; the wolf, the panther, the catamount, the lynx, the raccoon, the ground hog, opossum, mink, fisher, beaver, and the land and sea otter.

Near the mouth of the Beaver River – close to present day Edmonton:

On the 28<sup>th</sup> (May), a little after quitting camp, we killed a swan. While I was busy cooking it.....

Same area:

Nadeau gave us half of it, and told us that we should find, thirty miles lower down, at the foot of a pine tree, a cache, where he had deposited ten swan-skins and some of martin,....

### **Townsend's Across the Rockies to the Columbia**

At Vancouver on December 1, 1835

p. 85 The ducks and geese, which have swarmed throughout the country during the latter part of the autumn, are leaving us, and the swans are arriving in great numbers. These are here, as in all other places, very shy; it is difficult to approach them without cover; but the Indians have adopted a mode of killing them which is very successful; that of drifting upon the flocks at night, in a canoe, in the bow of which a large fire of pitch pine has been kindled. The swans are dazzled, and apparently stupefied by the bright light, and they fall easy victims to the craft of the sportsman.

### **Recollections of Wm. Craig by Thomas Beall**

Near Pike's Peak:

p. 78. I immediately cocked my rifle, and, advancing to the rock, and peeping over it, saw an animal, about the size of a large badger, engaged in scraping up the earth about a dozen paces from where we were concealed. Its color was dark, almost black; its body long, and apparently tailless; and I at once recognized the mysterious beast to be a "glutton".

**Diary of James Harkness** - read on line on Montana Historical Soc Web page  
Monday June 2, 1862 On the Missouri between the Grand River in SD and the Cannonball River in ND  
Saw a swan today.

**Among the Indians – Four Years on the Upper Missouri, 1858-1862 Henry A. Boller** – edited by Milo Milton Quaife Boller was at Fort Atkinson and Fort Berthold

p. 145. Large flocks of swans and pelicans were continually passing over our heads in graceful undulating flight, together with immense numbers of ducks and geese, all taking their departure for more southern climes.

**Life in the Rocky Mountains Diary of Wanderings on the Sources of the Rivers Missouri, Columbia and Colorado from February 1830 to November 1835 by W. A. Ferris**

Along the Blackfoot River on March 24

Geese and swans are now performing their migratory returns, and are continually seen flying over us; ducks are also observed in abundance.

.....sometimes saw an animal resembling an otter, in size, shape and color, called a pekan or fisher; but for want of a dog to tree them, did not shoot any. We killed several martins, and saw traces of large animal of the cat kind, supposed to be a lynx.

..that he had killed, during his stay here, (half of the winter) forty-six deer, two lynxes, two pekan, three martins, one beaver, one otter and several muskrats.

**Larocque, Francois-Antoine, The Journal of Francois-Antoine Larocque from the Assiniboine River to the Yellowstone –1805. In Early Fur Trade on the Northern Plains, W. Raymond Wood & Thomas D. Thiessen**

p. 162 on June 5, 1805 north of Buffalo Lodge Lake in McHenry County, North Dakota Here we saw plenty of wild fowls, Duck, Bustards (Canada geese), Geese, Swans etc. and killed a number of them.

p. 183 on August 14, 1805 between the Tongue and Little Big Horn rivers in Montana I saw a few cranes.

**Bradbury, John. Bradbury's Travels in the Interior of America 1809-11 in Thwaites' Early Western Travels. DCB, NDSU,**

He is on the Mississippi River south of the St. Francis river in December 1811  
He describes the New Madrid quakes that started on December 16.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> in the evening, we saw a smoke, and knowing that there were no habitations on this part of the river, we made towards it, and found it to be the camp of a few Choctaw Indians, from whom I purchased a swan, for five balls and five loads of powder.

**Reid, Russell and Clell G. Gannon. Natural History Notes on the Journals of Alexander Henry. ND Historical Quarterly 2 (April, 1928: 168-200 ND State, ND Historical Archive, 701-328-3710**

**Wild Fowl**

Ducks, geese, swans and other water birds could be included in this general term so often used by Henry in his journals.

In speaking of the food supply of the Indians in the vicinity of Fort Dauphin, Manitoba he says:

Their principle resource has been along the shores of Lake Manitoba, where wild fowl breed in prodigious numbers. Round the S. end of this lake, and as far N. as the Straits, a low, broken, marshy county extends from one to three miles before we come to *terra firma* --these extensive morasses being the great resort for wild fowl of all kinds. At the season when swans and other birds shed their feathers, the Indians destroy great numbers by pursuing them in canoes and killing them with sticks. Eggs of all sorts they also collect in abundance – even canoe-loads (p.. 291, July 9, 1806).

## Swans

### Whistling Swan (*Olar columbianus*)

On Nov. 18, 1800, while in the vicinity of Reed River (Rosseau River – near Dominion City, Manitoba) Henry records:

Great numbers of swans were passing S.—almost one continuous flock the whole day; I was astonished to see so many (p. 154).

On account of the large numbers and late date these were probably Whistling swans.

## Swans

### Trumpeter Swan: (*Olar buccinator*)

In Henry's time the Trumpeter Swan was a common breeding bird in all suitable localities in North Dakota. Some of the fall records given by him apparently refer to this species as they are too early in the fall for Whistling swan. On Sept. 5, 1800, just below Tongue River he states:

We came to two small lakes, which were covered with swans.....(Page 84).

The swans referred to in the reference quoted under wild fowl were Trumpeter swans in as much as the Whistling swan breeds much farther north.

This also applies to the swans in the following quotation:

(Page 418, Aug. 11, 1806, Cypress River, north of Pembina Hills: We shot an old swan and caught two young ones that could not fly; this made us a comfortable supper.

## Cranes

### Whooping Cranes (*Grus americana*)

On Sept. 5, 1800, Henry observed that the white cranes were numerous on two small lakes south of Tongue River near Red River.

Henry reported buying 35 wolverines over a 5 year period and named the locals where they were taken in ND.

## **These journals have been edited and reprinted in Tundra by Farley Mowatt**

### **Samuel Herne's Expedition to the Copper River 1769-72**

Near Yathkyed Lake in Northwest Territories on May 13

On that day the Indians killed two swans and three geese.

### **Alexander Mackenzie Reaches the Arctic Ocean 1789**

Near Great Slave Lake, NW Territories on June 9

The mud banks in this river are covered with wild fowl and this morning we killed two swans, ten geese, and one beaver without suffering the delay of an hour; so that we might have soon filled the canoe with them, if that had been our object.

On June 23

They also said we should see no more of them at present, as the Slave and Beaver Indians, as well as others of the tribe, would not be here till the time that the swans cast their feathers.

On June 22 journalist has mixed up the dates



There was some floating ice in the lake and the Indians killed a couple of swans.

On June 29

The water appeared to abound in fish and was covered with fowl such as swans, geese and several kinds of ducks.

On the return near Great Slave Lake on July 23

We had not touched any of our provisions for six days, in which time we consumed two reindeer, four swans, forty-five geese, and a considerable quantity of fish.

**Carver, J. Travels Through the Interior Parts of North America in the Years, 1766, 1767 and 1768**

Carver left Boston in June 1766 proceeding to Fort Michillimackinac (near present day Mackinaw City), thence to Green Bay, thence down the Fox to the Wisconsin and up the Mississippi to the Falls of St. Anthony (Minneapolis) ; then wintered on the River St. Pierre (Minnesota River). He left there in April of 1767 following the Chippewa River and the St. Croix River to Lake Superior to Thunder Bay and hence along the north shores of each of the Great Lakes. He wintered at Michillimackinac leaving there in June of 1768 on the Schooner Gladwyn through Lake Huron to Lake St. Claire, then Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and back to Boston in October 1768.

On the Fox River in October

This river is the greatest resort for wild fowl of every kind that I met with in the whole course of my travels; frequently the sun would be obscured by them for some minutes.

At Lake Pepin (Mississippi River) on November 5

Great numbers of fowl frequent also this Lake and rivers adjacent, such as storks, swans, geese, brants, and ducks

Carver has lengthy descriptions of the Indians, mammals, a few birds and reptiles.

He describes the Carrabou and the Carcajou (wolverine) and he obviously had seen them.

**Trobriand, Regis de. Military life in Dakota. L. M. Kane, Trans. And ed. The Alvord Memorial Commission, St. Paul.**

At Fort Stevenson on the upper Missouri near present day New Town, North Dakota  
October 14, 1866

This morning the first swan of the season was killed. It is a wonderful bird, not differing from the tame swans in Central Park in New York, except that its beak does not have a ring of black.....

**Point, Nicholas Wilderness Kingdom, Indian Life in the Rocky Mountains: 1840-1847, The Journals and Paintings of Nicholas Point**

Is there an abundance of game in the Coeur d'Alene country? Perhaps nowhere does so small an area contain such a variety. Next to the roe deer, these are the most common: the deer, the elk, the mountain lion, the carcajou, the white sheep, the bighorn, the goat, the wolf, the fox, the wildcat, the polecat, the hare, the otter, the weasel, the badger, the mink, the marten, the fisher, the beaver, the muskrat, a large variety of mouse-colored rats, squirrels, field mice, not to mention four or five varieties of bear.

Of the birds, there are the calumet bird, (which has the same importance as the eagle), the swan, the crane, the pelican, the bittern, the bustard, the snipe, the thrush, the duck, the teal, the magpie, the crow, the swallow, the green woodpecker, the hawk, the turtledove, the fishing bird, many varieties of aquatic birds and others unknown in Europe.

**Cutright, Paul R. and Michael J. Brodhead Elliot Coues, Naturalist and Frontier Historian**

p. 41 Coues and Prentiss wrote "A List of Birds Ascertained to Inhabit the District of Columbia". For instance, the golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) was then "apparently not rare" for Coues and Prentiss had observed or obtained individuals almost every winter,.....

p. 163 On August 10, 1873 Often as we lay encamped on the Mouse (Souris) River (in North Dakota), the stillness of midnight would be broken by the hoarse, rattling croaks of (sandhill) cranes(*Grus canadensis*) coming overhead,.....

p. 195 in North Park, Jackson County, Colorado in September 1876 A special treat was the sighting of a small herd of buffalo, in this case "the woodland buffalo, known to the hunters as 'mountain bison (*Bison bison athabasca*)." "

**Kelly, Luther S. 1926. Yellowstone Kelly: The Memoirs of Luther S. Kelly M. Quaife ed DCB, MSU**

p. 77 in 1878 and near the mouth of the Yellowstone River: In the timber, white-tail, and along the bluff, black-tail deer thronged, while beyond grazed antelopes and buffaloes.

p. 90 .....in the Judith Basin, Montana, that beautiful region where one could stand in one spot and see buffaloes, deer, elk, mountain sheep, and bears, all at one time.

p. 221. On Yellowstone Lake: ...but there was no sign of life except the white swans and pelicans on the lake.....

**Chittenden, Hiram M. 1903. Early Steamboat Navigation on the Missouri River: Life and Adventures of Joseph LaBarge.**

p. 148. In 1843. One of the disagreeable features of the trip above the mouth of the Big Sioux River was the vast numbers of dead buffalo that were encountered. They had been drowned on the upper river at the time of the spring break-up in attempting to cross the ice after it became too weak.

**Bell, John R. Journal of Captain John R. Bell, Official Journalist for the Stephen H. Long Expedition to the Rocky Mountains, 1820.** MSU, UND

p. 121 Pawnee Loups – near Council Bluffs. The Squaws cultivate corn, beans, pumpkins, watermelons, squashes.....

p. 189 along the Arkansas .. the water in the river has risen from the rains, is of yellowish color and smells very strong of buffalo manure -....

**Burroughs, Raymond Darwin 1961. The Natural History of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.** MSU, Bis pub, UND

p.199 March 9, 1806 (Written at Fort Clatsop) The Large Swan is precisely the same common to the Atlantic States, the small swans differs only from the larger one in size and its note. It is about one fourth less and its note entirely different, the latter cannot be justly imitated by the sound of letters nor do I know any sounds with which a comparison would be pertinent. It begins with a kind of whistling sound and terminates in a round full note which is rather louder than the whistling or former part; this note is as loud as that of the larger swan, from the peculiar whistling of the note of this birds I have called it the whistling swan.....in number they are fully five for one of the large species - Lewis

**Coues, Elliot, ed. New Light on the Early History of the Greater Northwest: the Manuscript Journals of Alexander Henry, Fur Trader of the Northwest Company and David Thompson, Official Geographer and Explorer of the same Company, 1799-1814; Exploration and Adventure Among the Indians on the Red, Saskatchewan, Missouri and Columbia Rivers.** MSU, Bis pub, UND

p. 4 near Portage la Prairie, Manitoba – March 13, 1800 “A flock of swans (*Olar americanus* or *buccinator*) at my winter-quarters. 16<sup>th</sup> Ducks and other spring birds.

p. 39 Lake Winnipeg – Grand Marais “...I went duck shooting having seen great numbers in the marais during my walk. I shot several and observed the tracks of moose, red deer (elk), and bears.

p. 42 Red River near the Cypress Hills,,,”they caught a great many lacaishé, a small fish about a foot long, with some catfish, pike, pois d’once and male achegan. We were much tormented by mosquitoes this evening.”

p. 84 Red River near Pembina River. Sept 5, 1800. “We came to two small lakes, which were covered with swans, geese and ducks of various kinds; white and gray cranes were also numerous.”

p. 88. Sept 6, 1800. Red River near Park River. “My people saw many raccoons in the course of the day, and shot four.”

p. 92 Sept 9, 1800. Red River near Park River. “I had seen on our way home a large flock of swans (*Olar columbianus*) rise out of Red River, about a mile above camp, apparently in a state of alarm and confusion.”

p. 102 Sept 23, 1800. Red River near Park River. "Last night great numbers of swans and geese passed, flying S., and this morning they continued."

p. 103 Sept 25, 1800. Red River near Park River. "I shot a large fat heron (*Ardea herodias*) which my men prefer to bear meat. Wind, N.E., wild fowl passing in abundance; the leaves are falling, having turned yellow a few days ago. My hunter returned, having killed a bear and some wild fowl. I took a ride northward, but saw only two bulls and three bears, on the E. side of Red river."

p. 109. Oct 2, 1800. Red River near Park River. "No noise was heard but that of swans and geese screaming, as they flew their way to warmer climates."

p. 112. Oct 6, 1800. Red River near Park River. "Early this morning my hunter went out and returned at ten o'clock; he had shot a bear and two red deer. I sent eight men for the meat. My men caught three raccoons in their traps."

p. 120. Oct 16, 1800. "At Pambian (Pembina) river I killed a fat swan; and opposite Fort des Trembles, two bulls."

p. 121 Oct 17, 1800 Red river near Park river. "During my absence the hunter had killed a large grizzly bear (*Ursus horribilis*) about a mile from the fort. . . . Grizzly bears are not numerous along Red river, but more abundant in the Hair (Pembina) hills. At ac du Diable (Devil's lake), which is about 30 leagues W., they are very common – I am told as common as the black bear (*Ursus american*) is here, and very malicious."

p. 122. Oct 19, 1800. Red river near Park river. "They bring in daily some raccoons, foxes, fishers and wolves; of martens (*Mustela americana*), there are none."

p. 130. Oct 29, 1800. Red river near Park river. "Buffaloes, moose, red deer (elk), fallow deer (white-tailed deer), and bears, are numerous, and there is plenty of fish in the lake, particularly large pike and dore."

p. 135. Nov 4, 1800. Red river near Park river. A child fell on hot embers. "He then covered the whole with a quantity of swan's down and put the child to rest."

p. 154. Nov 18, 1800. Red river near Pembina hills. "Great numbers of swans were passing S. – almost one continuous flock the whole day; I was astonished to see so many."

p. 155. Nov 23, 1800. Red river near Park river. "The mice destroy everything; they eat my skins and peltries – indeed, anything that is not iron or steel goes down with them."

p. 173. March 15, 1801. Red river near park River. "On the 15<sup>th</sup> we saw six swans and several outardes (Canada geese) going N., . . . ."

p. 175. April 18, 1801. Red river near Park river. "Rain; drowned buffalo still drifting down the river, but not in such vast numbers as before, many having lodged on the banks and along the beach."

p. 176. April 22, 1801. Red river near Park river. "Pigeons flying N. in great numbers. Desmarais caught one sturgeon, three large catfish, and a number of smaller fishes."

P. 176. April 25, 1801. Red river near Park river. "Drowned buffalo drift down river day and night."

p. 180. May 8, 1801. Red river near Park river. "Ever since April 25<sup>th</sup> we have been plagued with wood ticks (a species of Ixodes); and now that we are daily in the woods and grass, our clothes swam with those troublesome and dangerous insects, which often get into the ear and cause inflammation. .... The bellies of our horses and dogs are covered with them: ."

p. 182. May 17, 1801. Red river near Pembina river. "Fleas and wood lice made me very uncomfortable; the former always abound in our old buildings and are very troublesome."

p. 183. May 19, 1801 Red river near Rat river. "At five o'clock we perceived three black bears on the beach. .... Upon firing at the largest, which I killed dead on the spot, the other two climbed up an oak, whence I knocked them both down.....Killed an outarde (Canada goose), a duck and a pigeon."

p. 183. May 21, 1801. Red river near Winnipeg. "Men fishing with hook and line, and others with the seine; all were successful, taking plenty of catfish, sturgeon, lacasishe, and other kinds.

p. 184. May 22, 1801. Portage la Prairie. In a table of skins purchased at Reed and Park rivers he includes grizzly bear, fisher, otter, marten, mink, wolverine and Loup-cervier (lynx).

P. 221. July 3, 1801. At Kamanistiquia on Lake Superior he has a table of furs purchased by the lower Red river department including the same skins as p. 184.

P. 225. Oct 1, 1801 Red river near Pembina river. "Fire in the plains in every direction. .... We set a night-line for catfish, of which we take 40 a day; they are excellent eating. ....The fleas plague us very much, and prevent sleep; .....

p. 229. Nov 2, 1801. Red river near Pembina river. "Rain and snow; swans and geese passing S. in abundance."

p. 239. Mar 24, 1802 Red river near Pembina river. "Plains on fire toward the W."

p. 252. Nov 1, 1802. Red river near Pembina river. " Fire running all over the country."

p. 253. Nov 19, 1802. Red river near Pembina river. "Fire raging all over the plains." "Plains burned in every direction and blind buffalo seen every moment wandering about. The poor beasts have all the hair singed off; even the skin in many places is shriveled up and terribly burned, and their eyes are swollen and closed fast."

p. 256. Jan 1, 1805. Same place. "The country being almost destitute of beaver and other furs," Coues footnote – Among the causes of extermination of the beaver must be reckoned a certain epidemic disease; thus Tanner, p. 104: "Some kind of distemper was prevailing among these animals which destroyed them in vast numbers."

p. 291. July 9, 1805. Lake Manitoba. Extensive marshes at the south end of Lake Manitoba. "At the season when swans and other birds shed their feathers, the Indians destroy great numbers by pursuing them in canoes and killing them with sticks. Eggs of all sorts they also collect in abundance..."

August 10, 1806. West end of Turtle Mountains. "The Indians are starving all over the country, no buffalo being found within their limits."

August 11, 1806. On Cypress river. "We shot an old swan and caught two young ones that could not fly; this made us a comfortable supper."

March 4, 1808. Grand Forks, Red river. "Swans passing last night." March 22. "Saw a flock of swans."

June 25, 1808. Grand Forks. "The swarms (grasshoppers) appear about the 15th of June, generally in clouds from S., and spread destruction; the very trees are stripped of their leaves. Grasshoppers pass northward until millions are drowned in Lake Winnipeg and cause a horrid stench,"

July 25, 1808. Pembina Hills. "At every seat we found a quantity of swan's down, colored with red earth....."

Sept 1, 1807 to June 1, 1808. Pembina River. A list of amounts consumed by fort personal includes 3 swans, one white crane 12 Outardes (Canada goose).

Volume 2-3

August 16, 1808. P. 457. Stony Point, Lake Winnipeg. "I shot a white crane and a few ducks..."

August 23, 1808. P. 468. Mouth of the Saskatchewan River. "We shot a number of wild fowl during the day – outardes, ducks, pelicans, and some pigeons, of which we saw great numbers; Ill"

April 10, 1809. P. 593. Vermillion River. "Saw two swans."

April 11. "Saw two outardes (Canada geese)..." Saw nine swans; killed an outarde"

May 18, 1809. P. 599. Vermillion River. "Numerous flocks of white and gray geese passed from S. to N."

July 23, 1810. P. 615. Terre Blanche. "...they brought 70 swan skins, killed in Lac qui Frame, ....(Smoky Lake).

July 30, 1810. P. 616. Terre Blanche. Red Deer River of the Bow River of the South Saskatchewan River. "Furs on hand today are: 292 beavers, weighing 337 lbs., 208 swans; 70 martens 24 dressed skins; 12 muskrats; 3 grizzly bears; 4 black ditto; 1 yellow ditto; 2 cubs; 5 loup-cerviers (lynx); 4 prime otters; 4 common ditto; 1 fox; 1 wolverine; 1 mink; 1 buffalo robe. "

August 30, 1810. P. 622. Same place. "Pigeons are passing from N. to S. in immense flocks particularly in the morning and evening."

September 1, 1809. Same place. "Deschamps came in with two cows; a few are seen about Fish lake, but they are the wood buffalo, more shy and wild than those of the plains. When they have been once fired at, a second shot can seldom be got."

January 13, 1811. P. 669. The Rocky Mountain House. "Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, sent back to the Height of Land for some things left there, but wolverines had destroyed everything except 5 lbs of balls."

February 4, 1811. P. 680. Upper Saskatchewan. "These are the gray sheep (bighorns, *Ovis montana*), which haven seen about this place, ..."

February 5, 1811. P. 681. Same place. "..... during which time they had killed three sheep and three cows...."

February 7, 1811. P 687. Kootenay plains. ".... As buffalo and sheep are always more numerous than in any other place. Moose and red deer (elk) are also plenty; jumping deer, grizzly bears and other animals peculiar to this country are also found here. We saw a flock of upward of 100 white partridges (ptarmigan) on this plain."

February 8, 1811. P.691. forks of the Saskatchewan. ".....as we have not seen a track of any animal whatever since leaving the forks."

February 9, 1811. P. 694. Same place. "This place appears destitute of animals of all kinds, and presents a dreary appearance."

November 17, 1813. P. 752. Astoria, Washington. "We saw swans, white and gray geese, outardes, gulls, etc, in abundance, and a great number of crabshells cast up on the beach."

November 27, 1813. P. 756. Same. "The chief's son came over with 11 white geese."

November 29, 1813. P. 757. Same. “.....they brought letters from Mr. William Henry, seven shamoys (mountain goats) weighing from 50 to 80 pounds each, three biches (does), and a number of wild fowl;.....”

December 13, 1813. P. 771. Same. “Saw a gray pelican; this kind are not so large as those we saw at Tongue point, and more of a light gray, something like a young gull.”

December 23, 1813. P 775. Same. “An Indian came in with a few white geese and two swans.”

January 5, 1814. P 783. Same. “Calloph arrived in a small, handsome wooden canoe, loaded with 13 swans and brailards, four outardes, two gray geese, and two stock-ducks;....

January 19, 1814. P808. Mouth of the Willamette river. “Some extraordinarily large vultures (condors) were hovering over camp.”

January 24, 1814. P817. Willamette river. “There are small tigers (lynx), raccoons, wolves, kitts (kit fox), wolverenes, black and brown bears, gray squirrels, etc.”

February 7, 1814. P832. Willamette river. “We saw several large flocks of swans flying up river, which, I am told, is generally the case at this season, when they leave the seacoast for the interior.”

Coues footnote p 857. Columbia river. “I hardly know where else to find positive indication of the former occurrence of Steller’s sea lion on the Columbia. Henry’s account fully identifies *E. stelleri*, which is the only animal capable of dragging a canoe several miles, being of a chestnut color, etc.

Pike, Major Z. M. 1810. Account of Expeditions to Sources of the Mississippi and Through Western Parts of Louisiana to the sources of the Arkansaw, Kans, La Platte, and Pierre Jaun Rivers. Coues.

March 18, 1806 p. 185. Near the mouth of the Platte R. “He then presented us with syrup of the maple to drink, and asked whether I preferred eating beaver, swan, elk, or deer;.....

March 19, 1806. P. 186. Same place. “After feasting upon a swan, took our leave for (the Swan River) camp;.....

April 3, 1806. P. 192. Same place. “In the course of the day I killed a swan and a goose,.....



**Coues, Elliot. 1898. The Journal of Jacob Fowler.**

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 1822 – at the headwaters of the Arkansas River

“the Wolves maid an attack on our Horses they Wounded one horse and two mules We Have maid a Strong Pen Close to Camp and Still Shut up all the Horses at night While We Remain at this place to protect them from wolves—“

**De Smet, Pierre-Jean. 1905. Life, letters and travels of Father Pierre-Jean de Smet S.J. 1801-1873...Vol 1-4**

p. 167 among the Omahas on the west bank of the Missouri river 25 miles below Sioux City

“ It is not uncommon to meet bears in our neighborhood; but this animal will seldom attack a man first, though he will defend himself when wounded. Wolves come very often to our very doors; quite lately they have carried off all our chicken. They are of all kinds; prairie-wolves, small and timid; black mountain wolves, large and dangerous We are obliged to be continually on our guard against these bad neighbors, and so I never go out without a good knife, a tomahawk or a sword-cane. There are snakes too, among which I might name the copper-head, the garter-snake, blacksnake and rattlesnake. Field, forest and cabin swarm with mice, which gnaw and devour the few fruits we possess. Insects, butterflies especially, are very numerous here, and very variegated and very large. Night-moths are of all colors and of a prodigious size; they are no less than eight inches in length. We live also in the midst of horse-flies and mosquitoes; they come upon us by thousands and give us no rest day nor night.”

p. 190 among the Omahas Mid May 1839

“I never saw so many ducks, geese, bustards, swans and wild turkeys in such a short trip.”

“p. 231 August 10, 1840 junction of the three forks of the Missouri

“From Green river to this place, our Indians had made their food of roots and the flesh of such animals as the red and black-tailed deer, elk, gazelle, bighorn or mountain sheep, grizzly and black bear, badger, rabbit and panther, killing also occasionally such feathered game as grouse, prairie-hens (a kind of pheasant), swans, geese, cranes and ducks.”

p. 243. Yellowstone area September 1840

“There was no lack of ducks, geese and swans.”

p. 345. Bitterroot Valley, MT October 1840.

“Amongst the most remarkable birds we distinguished the Nun’s eagle (so called by travelers on account of the color of its head, which is white, whilst the parts of the body are black), the black eagle, buzzard, waterfowl, heron, crane, pheasant and quail.”

p. 347 -among the Kalispels on the great Camas plain – early November, 1840

“Wolves are very numerous and very ferocious here; last spring they carried off and devoured more than forty of the Kalispels’ horses.”

p. 372. April 15, 1842 Flathead Lake area

“The warriors returned in the evening with a bear, goose and six swans eggs.”

p. 385. June 1842. Above the Dalles on the Columbia

“Attracted by the shoals of fish that come up the river, the seals gambol amid the eddying waves.....or in swift pursuit of their scaly prey.”

p. 400. Along the Yellowstone river

“ From the 25<sup>th</sup> of August to the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 1842, we killed to supply our wants, as we journeyed on, three fine buffalo cows and two large bulls (only to obtain the tongue and marrow bones); two large deer, as fat as we could have wished; three goats, two black-tailed deer, a bighorn or mountain sheep, two fine grey bears, and swan----to say nothing of the pheasants, fowls, snipe, ducks and geese.”

p. 457. Lake De Boey – near Coeur d’Alene lake November 1844

“We camped toward nine in the evening, on the shore of Lake De Boey, which was literally covered with wild swans, geese and ducks.”

p. 495. At the source of the Columbia September 4, 1845.

“On arriving at the two lakes, I saw them covered with swarms of aquatic birds – coots, ducks, waterfowl, cormorants, bustards, cranes and swans;....”

p. 535. April 1846.

“The Montagne’s Indians inhabit the lower part of Athabasca, also the great lake of that name. The elk is very common, and the reindeer are found in large bands;....”

p. 536.

“Lakes and marshes being so numerous in this country, swans, geese, bustards and ducks of various species, come hither in thousands during the spring and autumn. Then the savages travel over these marshy places on snow-shoes in quest of eggs, on which they mostly subsist during this season.”

p. 537. At the source of the Athabasca May 6, 1845.

“Animals killed –twelve moose deer, two reindeer, thirty large mountain sheep or bighorn, two porcupines, 210 hares, one beaver, two muskrats, twenty-four bustard, 115 ducks, twenty-one pheasants, one snipe, one eagle, one owl; add to this from thirty to fifty fine white-fish every day and twenty trout;,,,,;”

p. 545. Near the mouth of the Portage river on the Columbia

“Moose, reindeer and mountain goats are frequently found in this region.”

p. 635 October 1948 in Missouri valley

“The consumption of skins in Missouri must be immense, for all Indians use them for constructing their huts, as well as for the harness of their horses and their own clothing.

Last year 110,000 buffalo robes,, with skins of elk, gazelle, deer, bighorn, otter, beaver, etc. and 25,000 salted tongues, were received in the warehouses of St. Louis. “

p. 775 on the Missouri from Ft. Benton to St. Louis August 1859

“During the whole route, our wants were constantly supplied; yes, we lived in the midst of the greatest abundance. The rivers furnished us excellent fish, water-fowl, ducks, geese and swans; the forests and plains gave us fruits and roots.”

p. 978. Among the Pawnees

“The presiding juggler, the musicians and the dancers have their heads covered with the down of the swan, which sticks to them by means of honey,.....”

p.. 982 same

“Her head-dress is composed of the feathers of the eagle and swan, and descends behind in gracefully waving curves, even to the ground.”

p. 985 same

“While these preparations are in progress, the Tewaaroachte, a religious band of distinguished warriors, known in the procession by the down of swans upon their hair or upon the tops of their heads, .....

p.1024 general comments

“The *Ursus gulo*, carcajou or wolverine is ordinarily found in the Arctic regions as far as the seventy-fifth degree. He appears in the various sections of the Rocky Mountains,....”

p. 1119 among the Assiniboins

“In his quality of medicine man his hear-dress was made of swan’s-down;.....”

p. 1126 general

“I have often spoken of the bisons, improperly called buffaloes, without mentioning the great use which the Indians make of this interesting animal. They supply almost all the necessaries of life. Their skins form lodges or dwellings, and serve as clothing, litters, bridles, and saddle coverings, vessels to hold water, boats to cross lakes and rivers; with the hair, the Indians make their cordage; with the sinews, bow strings and thread for clothes, as well as glue; the shoulder-blade is spade and pickaxe. The bison is their daily bread, their chief food. The dung of the animal, called bois-de-vache, furnishes abundant fuel. Last year 100,000 buffalo skins were sent from the desert to the warehouses of St. Louis. With the proceeds the Indians obtain arms and all they need.”

Chapter III Fauna and Flora p. 1391

“Birds. I shall say but little of the birds. They are various in form, color and size; from the pelican and the swan to the wren and the hummingbird. Muratori, speaking of the last, compares him to the nightingale and is astonished that such shrill and loud sounds should proceed from so small a body. The celebrated author must have been mistaken, unless the hummingbird of South America be different from that of the Rocky

Mountains. The latter does not sing, but makes a humming noise with his wings as he flies from flower to flower.””

**Grinnell, George Bird. 1972. The Passing of the Great West Selected Papers of George Bird Grinnell.** Ed. John F. Reiger.

p. 53 in July 1870 in the Unita mountains in Wyoming

“I had not done so well, having only sixteen sage grouse, two ducks and a snow goose.....

p. 127 in June 1877 on the headwaters of the Dismal River near present day Mullen, Hooker County, NE.

“The ‘ranch’ when I reached it consisted of a couple of tents stuck up on the edge of the alkaline lake which was the head of the Dismal River. On this lake a pair of trumpeter swans had a nest. The sand hills roundabout abounded in antelope and deer. There were some elk in the country, and one of two little bunches of buffalo.

**Grinnell, George Bird. Et al. Hunting and Conservation.** P. 202

“In 1610, William Strachey, in his *True Declaration of Virginia*, says: “The Turkeys of the cuntry are great and fat and exceeding in plentie. The Rivers from August or September to February are covered with flocks of Wildfoule; as Swannes, geese, ducke, mallard, teal, wigeons, herons, bitters, curlews, godwights, plouers, snights, dottrels, cormorants in such abundance as are not in all the world to be equalled.”

**Charles Christopher Trowbridge.** Brown, R. H. (ed). With Cass in the Northwest in 1820.

p. 330. In the vicinity of Cass, Leech and Sandy Lakes in northern Minnesota on July 20.

“These Indians (Chippewa) hunt as far north as the Vermilion Lake, the head waters of the Fon du Lac River, on which the Am. Co. (American Fur Company) have an establishment. They take Bear, Otter, Muskrats, Beaver, Raccoon, Fishers, Martin and sometimes red & Gray foxes and Deer. The only Buffalo they kill are taken on the borders of the Sioux County, which is the great bone of contention between the two nations.

The Lakes .....abound in white fish, but none are so rich as those of Leech Lake.....

Some other kinds of fish are caught, among which are Pike, Carp, Blk Bass, Catfish, and a kind resembling the white fish in colour and shape, but smaller, called the Telibb. [Dr. Samuel Eddy of the department of zoology in the University of Minnesota identified the pike as the northern pike, not the walleyed pike; the carp as the quillback or carp sucker, not the fish commonly called the carp today; the black bass as the largemouth bass; and the catfish as one of the several species of bullhead. The tullibee is a type of white fish familiar to present-day fishermen.]

“The white fish are taken in autumn, & the Telibeas in the spring of the year, in nets of 60 to 100 fathoms in length. Among the Water fowls, we saw the Bustard, Wild Goose, (both of which are similar) several kinds of Ducks, the Swan, Pelican, Loon, Gully & comorant. The pheasant, patridge & pigeon are found here, the latter numerous.

The Rein and Common Deer and the Moose are killed in the vicinity of this Lake, but it is a saying among these wise people, that he who kills a moose is perfect master of his trade.

[In the expert opinion of Dr. Thomas S. Roberts of the Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Trowbridge’s bustard was the Canada goose; his pheasant, the ruffed grouse; his partridge, the Canada or spruce grouse; and his pigeon, the passenger pigeon. Dr. Roberts also suggests that the “rein and common deer” would now be known as the caribou, and the white-tail or Virginia deer, respectively. (Roberts apparently did not identify the Gully.)]

p. 336 – footnote – On the upper Mississippi below the mouth of today’s Crow Wing River on July 26.

[In a letter written to Calhoun (Sec. of War) (from Detroit, February 1821, Cass states that “In this debatable land the game is very abundant. Buffaloes, Elk, & deer range unharmed and unconscious of harm. The mutual hostilities of the Chippeways & Sioux render it dangerous for either, unless in strong parties, to visit this portion of the Country. The consequence has been a great increase of all animals, whose flesh is used for food or whose fur is valuable for market. We found herds of Buffalo quietly feeding on the plains. There is little difficulty in approaching sufficiently near to kill them.”)]

**Douglas, David. 1914. Journal Kept by David Douglas During his Travels in North America..... MSU, UND**

He was working for the British Royal Horticultural Society 1823 to 1827.

Has extensive IDs and notes on various plants including shrubs and trees. Mostly in Washington and Alberta. Did not usually describe the animals seen or collected. And many of his names for animals are unknown for example “Killed a few of the common stock duck.” I think he means mallard but I’m not sure.

On Cootanie River, Washington. “Reindeer (Cariboux of the voyageurs) it would appear are found in abundance in the mountains; not fewer than a hundred skins were in this lodge.”

Just above the Dalles in Washington on 28 April. “A large Wolverine visited our camp in the evening,.....” The wolverine was shot in camp the next night but got down a hole.

**Ellicott, Andrew. 1803. The Journal of Andrew Ellicott.. for Determining the Boundary Between the United States and the Possessions of his Catholic Majesty in America. MSU, Valley City U, NDSU**

February 17, 1795 – near the mouth of Wolf River (present day Memphis) “On the shore we found a large alligator, and endeavoured to kill him with our oars and setting poles, but in vain;” .....

February 19, 1795 – near Walnut Hills “...our men killed a large alligator.”

**Gregg, Kate L. 1968. The Road to Santa Fe: The Diaries and Journals of George Chamblin Sibley and others Pertaining to the Surveying and Marking of a Road from the Missouri Frontier to the Settlements of New Mexico 1825-1827.** UND, MN State- Moorhead

30 June 1825 120 miles west of St. Louis. “The flies (green) are so bad in the Grand Prairie that it is impossible to travel through it in the day without very great injury to the Horses.”

15 August 1825 – along the Arkansas near Running Turkey Creek, east of McPherson “... but no game except a few Goats, (antelope) none of which were killed. A Hunting party of the Kansas have been here recently, and driven off all the Game.”

**James, Edwin. 1823 & 1966 Account of an Expedition From Pittsburg to the Rocky Mountains.**

Vol. I. p. 49. 15 June 1819 – along the Mississippi River near the mouth of the Kaskaskia River.

“On the beach opposite the place where we lay for these repairs, was a large flock of pelicans which remained in sight for several hours. We had met with some wild geese and a swan, which we saw was unable to fly, having at that time cast its feathers.” .....

p. 75. 28 June 1819. “The prairie flies (a species of *Tabanus*) are exceedingly troublesome to horses and cattle, in so much that people that cross these grassy plains, usually travel in the very early morning, and again at evening, resting greater part of the day; some indeed journey only by night.”

p. 99. 1 August 1819. Along the Missouri River near the mouth of the Grand River. “Here we saw four Mississippi kites.....Sandhill cranes, and flocks of prairie hens were also seen, but were so shy as not to be-taken without much difficulty.”

Along the Missouri near Great and Little Chneij au Barre creeks. “Here Mr. Say had an opportunity to examine a young black wolf, which was confined by a chain at the door of the hut. These animals are common in this part of the country.”

Lists many plants seen at various locales throughout. Also an extensive listing of vertebrates and in some cases locals in a separate appendix. Along with a dictionary of sign language.

Vol II – much the same – the return trip to St. Louis. Both volumes have lengthy detailed discussions of plants seen and similarly with some animals but not all by any means. The two volumes total 905 pages of very detailed descriptions of soils, minerals, rocks, forests, agricultural potential, etc. They got on the wrong track on the return so that observations can’t be keyed to a location.

**Warren, G. K. 1856. Explorations in the Dacota Country in the Year 1855.** MSU, UND, NDSU

Has a summary description of plants and mammals on the last pages.

**Wilhelm, Paul Travels in North America 1822-1824**

**Wilhelm, P. (Duke of Wurrtemberg). 1938. First Journey to North America in the years 1822 to 1824.** W. G. Bek, transl. S. D. Hist. Collect. 19: 7-462.

December 13, 1822 on the Mississippi below New Orleans: As we approached the Balize a huge number of gulls swarmed about us and the entire region began to be more and more enlivened. The air became warmer, flocks of pelicans and swans flew about us in great circles.....

December 20 still below New Orleans: At our approach, great flocks of geese and swans rose from the reeds and settled on the waters of the Gulf.

Footnote by author: In 1719 the Attacapas captured M. de Charleville and M. de Bellisle, who had lost their way while hunting. Since M. de Charleville was very corpulent, he was killed at once with clubs and eaten. M. de Bellisle, however, was kept for a later feast but was freed by the timely intervention of his countrymen.

September 5, 1823 on the Missouri near the mouth of the Vermillion River: Here I saw countless flocks of swans and pelicans flying in wide circles overhead or hunting their food on the sandbanks of the river.

**Tabeau, Pierre-Antoine 1939 Tabeau's Narrative of Loisel's Expedition to the Upper Missouri** ed. Annie Heloise Abel

A summary written several years after the fact.

**Thompson, David. 1916. David Thompson's Narrative of His Exploration in western America, 1784-1812** ed J. B. Tyrrell

Thompson, David. 1962. David Thompson's Narrative, 1784-1812. Richard Glover, ed. p. xcix. September 6; on the upper Columbia River – Tracks of reindeer and the black-tailed chevreuil (mule deer) were plentiful, but they hunted without success.

p. 63; talking of the area between Lake Winnipeg and Hudson's Bay. There are two species of Swan, the largest weighs about twenty four pounds, the lesser about fifteen, when fat. They lay from seven to nine eggs. When shot, twelve eggs have been counted in them; but nine is the greatest number I have found in a nest, and also of the number they rear; when fat they are good eating, but when poor the flesh is hard and dry. They are a shy bird, and their nests not often found; they frequent the lesser Lakes; and seldom approach the shores. The Natives often shoot them in the night; for this purpose, fir wood, split into laths, to burn freely, is made into small parcels, one of which is placed in an old kettle, or one made of wood, placed on a strong, short, stick, to keep it two, or three feet above the Canoe. When it is quite dark, two Indians embark, one steers the Canoe quietly, and steadily, towards the Swans, (they keep near each other,) the other is in the bow of the Canoe, with his gun, and the torch wood; which is lighted and soon in full blaze, and is kept in this state by the man in the bow; as soon as the Swans perceive the fire, they commence, and continue their call of Koke, Koke. They appear aware of danger, but are fascinated by the fire, they keep calling and swimming half round, and back in the same place, gazing on the fire; until the Canoe is within about thirty yards, when the bow man, by the light of the fire, levels his gun, and shoots the Swan nearest to him; if he has two guns the other Swan is shot as he rises on his flight. Another mode by which the Swan is enticed within shot, is, the Indian lies down in some long grass

rushes, or willows near the edge of the Lake, with a piece of very white birch rind in his hand, or fastened to a short stick; this is made to show like a Swan, and the call made; then drawn back; then again shown; thus it attracts the Swans who gently approach, to within shot; this requires great patience, perhaps three, or four hours. It is more successful with a single Swan, than with a pair, or more.

p. 64 Two species of Crane pass the open season, they make their nests among quagmire rushes, which cannot be approached; they have about nine young, which are hidden until they are fully half grown. (Sandhill and Whooping Cranes rarely have more than 2-3 young).

p. 120. Near the mouth of Reindeer River on Churchill River. We killed two Swans, and without any accident on the 21<sup>st</sup> July arrived at Fairford House from whence we commenced our Journey.

p. 200 Near the source of the Mississippi R. The Swan was a very rare bird; and of the different species of Geese,.....

p. 210 same area On examining a Swan we shot, it had thirteen eggs, from the size of a pea to that of a walnut, yet I do not remember ever seeing more than nine young ones with them.

p. 237 speaking of smallpox ravages in general. ....the numerous herds of Bison and Deer also disappeared both in the Woods and in the Plains, and the Indians about Cumberland House declared the same of the Moose, and the Swans, Geese and Ducks with the Gulls no longer frequented the Lakes in the same number they used to do;.....

p. 289 Near Invermere, British Columbia. ....by the very latter end of the Month the Geese and most of the Ducks had left us for the southward but many Swans and some Ducks remained in the two Kootanae Lakes (the sources of the Columbia) these Lakes do not freeze in the winter.

p. 290 same area. January 11. Two Swans came, but being disturbed again left us. The whole of the later part of this month (January) fine mild weather and the Swans frequently arriving.

P 291. Same area March 10. One of my Men killed a Swan, and I killed another, it was in good condition but not fat, and weighed thirty two and a half pounds.

p. 303 near Thompson Falls, Montana March 24 Numerous flocks of Geese have passed to the northward as well as Ducks, but the Swans remain here; for how long we cannot say.

p. 304 same area The Swans the same, but this is a most cautious bird, they work at the nest only in the night, I never saw them at it in the day, and they are to be found at some small distance from the nest; even when the female is sitting on the eggs, the male is not near her until his turn comes to take charge of the eggs, which are from three to seven, and so well hidden, they are not found so often as the Eggs of other Fowl.

p. 309 same area Killed one Swan, one Crane, two Geese and found sixteen goose eggs in different nests.

p. 327 upper Columbia Rivers April 26 .....during this time we had killed two Swans, the female had twelve small eggs, yet I have never found more than five eggs in their Nests, nor have I seen more than seven young ones with them.

p. 328. Head of the Columbia. May 7 ....we killed one Swan, three Geese and a Teal Duck but since we left our Hut have not seen the track of a Deer or any other Animal.



p. 330 near Flathead Lake on Flathead River. ....in other places by rich Meadows of considerable extent, with plenty of Swans, Geese, Ducks and Plover;.....

p. 360 Columbia River in general .....throughout the whole of the River the climate is mild and the upper Lakes are open, and have many Swans and Ducks during the winter, of the former there is a large species of which I killed several, weighing from thirty two to thirty five pounds; the inside fat filled a common dinner plate.

p. 384 Columbia River near Spokane, Washington. In the afternoon on one of the dry shoals of the River we came to a herd of eight Rein Deer, they were not shy, and we shot a good Doe, and might have killed two, or three more. The hunters often mentioned to me that they had seen Rein Deer, but I doubted if they were of the same species that is found around Hudson's Bay and the interior country; upon examination I found no difference;

p. 388 on Clark's Fork of the Columbia. The weather was so mild the Deer were approaching the Hills. Swans, Geese and Ducks were in the River; and we had to send Men and a Canoe to the great Camp for Deer, they brought eighteen Antelopes, which were most welcome.

p. 393 Flathead Lake, Montana. On the 15<sup>th</sup> January the ground was entirely bare of snow even on part of the Hills, and the rest of the month had many rainy days; Swans were numerous, and many flocks of Geese with a few Ducks.

p. 397 on the Athabasca River.....continuing our voyage, by the early part of June we had shot many Swans, Geese and Ducks. On examining them, very few had eggs in them ready to lay, whereas on the west side of the Mountains all these Fowl had their nest made, and were sitting on their eggs in the very early part of March;.....

**Schoolcraft, H. R. 1821. Narrative Journal of Travels Through the Northwestern Regions of the United States Extending From Detroit through the Great Chain of American Lakes to the Sources of the Mississippi River in the Year 1820. Ed. Mentor L. Williams.**

Purchased at Mackinac Island trading post

106,000 Beaver skins

2,100 Bear skins

1,500 Fox skins

4,000 Kitt Fox skins

4,600 Otter skins

16,000 Musquash skins

32,000 Martin skins

1,800 Mink skins

500 Buffalow Robes, and a quantity of castorum

6,000 Lynx skins

600 Wolverine skins,

1,650 Fisher skins

100 Raccoon skins

3,800 Wolf skins

700 Elk skins

750 Deer skins

1,200 Deer skins, dressed

near the source of the Mississippi River

This band subsists by hunting the beaver, otter, muskrat, moose, marten, wolverine, and black and silver fox. They have neither the deer, buffalo, or elk.

General discussion on the Mississippi River

The wild rice, (*zizania aquatica*), is not found on the waters of the Mississippi south of the forty-first degree of north latitude, nor the Indian reed, or cane, north of the thirty-eighth.....The alligator is first seen below the junction of the Arkansas. The parrot is found as far north as the mouth of the Illinois, and flocks have occasionally been seen as high as Chicago.

Northern Minnesota near Sandy Lake

Towards evening, an animal of singular appearance, supposed to be the Wolverine, was seen swimming across the river, but our efforts to take it proved unavailing.

On the Mississippi near the junction with the Elk River on July 28,

The soil continues alluvial on both banks—Ducks, geese, pelican, swan, and snipe, have been frequently seen; --also, the eagle, hawk, buzzard, heron, pigeon, and red squirrel.

Near the junction with the St. Croix River on August 3

The whole tribe of waterfowl are found upon the river, and by the variety of their plumage, and their shapes—the wildness of their notes---and the flapping of their wings, serve to diversify the scene, while the well known notes of the robin, and other singing birds upon the shores, .....

On Lake Michigan near the mouth of the Manitowac River on August 25.

In walking along some parts of the shore, I observed a great number of the skeletons and half consumed bodies of the pigeon, which in crossing the lake, is often overtaken by severe tempests, and compelled to alight upon the water, and thus drowned, in entire flocks, which are soon thrown up along the shores. This causes the shores of Lake Michigan to be visited by vast numbers of buzzards, eagles, and other birds of prey.

Near the Grand Traverse on September 8

.....the Indian village of L'Arbre Croche (now Cross Village). This consists of about forty families of Ottoways, who are settled upon a very fertile tract of land, and raise corn, potatoes, pease, beans, cucumbers, and pumpkins, .....

### **A letter from James D. Doty to Lewis Cass**

Speaking of the Leech Lake tribe of Indians .. Their game is deer, bear, beaver, otter, muskrats, marten, fisher, raccoon, and a few red and gray foxes. The only buffalo they kill is on the border of the Sioux country. The beaver is hunted particularly on the river St. Peters (Minnesota R.) and its tributaries. A few are found in other parts. Most of the small rivers abound in otter.

The water fowls throughout this Northwestern country are nearly all the same. They are the bustard, wild goose, several kinds of ducks, as the black, French (nearly resembling the tame) wood duck, etc., swan, pelican, loon, and the gull.

The moose, elk, rein and common deer, wolf (not north of Sandy Lake,) red and white ermine, wolverine, lynx, skunk, porcupine, woodchuck, and red striped squirrels are found in different parts of the country.

The Fond du Lac Indians of Lake Superior.....Their principle game is moose, bear, marten, mink, muskrat, case cat (lynx) hedgehog, of which they have great numbers, otter, and a few beaver. They have neither the buffalo, deer, wolf, racoon, fox or wolverine.

**Keating, William H. 1824. Narrative of an Expedition to the Source of St. Peter's River....Performed in the Year 1823.**

On the Des Plains near Chicago

The birds we saw today consisted of prairie hens or grouse (*Tetrao cupido*), reed birds (*Emberiza oryzivora*, Wilson), sand-hill cranes (*Grus candensis*), curlews, etc.

Near Prairie du Chien among the Sauk Indians

The extreme scarcity of game in a country so remote from a white population as this is, must be striking to every observer;.....Being free from all apprehensions of enemies, they (the Indians) hunt without reserve, and destroy the game more rapidly than it can be reproduced.

Game seems to be disappearing very rapidly from the face of the country.

On the St. Peter (Minnesota)

The only game killed, from the time that the party left the fort, (Minneapolis) were two ducks.

In the evening, the party encamped on the bank of a small pool, which forms one of a group of ponds dignified with appellation of the Swan Lakes, on account of the abundance of these birds said to exist in their neighborhood.

Near the mouth of the Terre Bleue

Animals of every kind still continued very scarce.

The Columbia Fur Company fort near Lake Traverse:

Beaver	1000 lbs
Bear	12 skins
Buffalo	4000 skins

Martin	1000 lbs
Otter	1000 lbs
Fisher	25 skins
Elk	16 skins
Mynx	10 skins
Muskrat	2000 skins
Lynx	20 skins
Swan	120 skins
Rabbit	1600 skins
Wolverine	400 skins
Cowskins (dressed)	320 skins
Wolves	10 skins
Moose	10 skins
Fox	5 skins

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of July near Lake Travers

Some of the gentlemen of the party went to the Indian camp, and were rewarded for their pains by eating of the swan's meat, which we had not yet had an opportunity of tasting; they found it very indifferent.

At the Pembina fort

Beaver	1600 skins
Martin	300 skins
Otter	a few skins
Fisher	200 skins
Bear (finest)	150 skins
Elk (dressed)	300 skins
Minx	200 skins
Muskrat	4500 skins
Wolverine	250 skins
Fox	200 skins

Near Bonnet Lake

The principal subsistence of these Indians, and perhaps of the greater part of the Chippewa nation, is fish and wild rice, of which they collect a great quantity in their numerous marshes, lakes, etc.

On the Winnepeg River

On the whole of the Winnepeck River we saw but three trophies indicating the capture of large game; one of these consisted of the horns of a reindeer, they were not of full size, the animal having been killed while they were in the velvet.

On Lake of the Woods

Among the animals seen by Mr. Say, were two kinds of gulls, one of which was probably the herring-gull, *Larus argeneus*, young; also a number of pelicans, and a few ducks; swans, it is said do not exist on the lake;

On Rainy Lake River August 29

Among the animals which are occasionally seen here, are the bear, otter, wolverine, carcajou, moose, squirrel, wolf, weasel, beaver, muskrat, fox, &c. The martin, and fisher are very abundant. The principal fish in the river is the sturgeon.

**Mackenzie, Alexander. 1801. Voyages from Montreal on the River St. Lawrence Through the Continent of North America to the Frozen and Pacific Oceans in the Years 1789 and 1793 with a Preliminary Account of the Rise, Progress, and Present State of the Fur Trade of that Country.** Iowa SU, Denver Pub

He went on two journeys – one from Lake Athabaska down the Mackenzie River to the Artic Ocean. The second from Lake Athabaska up the Peace River to the Pacific Ocean

He often uses the f instead of an s

Near Slave Lake (Great Slave Lake today) June 1789

The mud banks in the river are covered with wild fowl; and we this morning killed two fswans, ten geefe, and one beaver, without fuffering the delay of an hour; fo that we might have foon filled the canoe with them, if that had been our object.

Near Slave Lake

.....and I accompanied one of my people to a fmall adjacent ifland, where we picked up fome dozens of fwans, geefe, and duck-eggs; we alfo killed a couple of ducks and a goofe.

Slave Lake

Towards morning, the Indians who had not been able to keep with us the preceding days, now joind us, and brought two fwans and a goofe.

Same place

.....they alfo faid, that we fhould fee no more of them at prefent; as the Slave and Beaver Indians, as well as others of the tibe, would not be here till the time that the fwans caft their feathers.

Same area

The hunters killed two fwans and a beaver; ...

Same Area

.....and the Indians killed a couple of fwans

Slave Lake

.....the water appeared to abound in fifh, and was covered with fowl, fuch as fwans, geefe, and feveral kinds of ducks, particularly black ducks, that were very numerous, but we could not get within gun fhoot of them.

#### Slave Lake

The hunters killed two geefe and a fwan: it appeared, indeed, that great numbers of fowls breed in the iflands which we had paffed.

#### Slave Lake

The Indians were very much fatigued, having been employed in running after wild fowl, wich had lately caft their feathers; they, however caught five fwans, and fame number of geefe.

#### Slave Lake

.....and in the article of provifions two fwans were all that the hunters were able to procure.

#### Mackenzie River

The hunters killed only one fwan and a beaver; the latter was the firft of its kind which we had feen in this river.

#### Mackenzie River

The intervals between the hills were covered with fmall lakes, which were inhabited by great numbers of fwans.

#### 69.7 north latitude

Two fwans were the only provifion which the hunters procured for us.

#### In permafrost country

We faw great numbers of fowl, and killed among us fifteen geefe and four fwans. Rein-deer, bears, wolverens, martens, foxes, hares, and white buffaloes are the only quadrupeds in their country;

#### June 23

We had not touched any of our provifion ftores for fix days in which time we had confumed two rein-deer, four fwans, forty-five geefe, and a confiderable quantity of fifh; but it is to be confidered, that we were ten men, and four women.

#### August 19

Their booty confifted only of three fwans and as many geefe.

#### August 20

The Indians killed five young fwans, and a beaver.

#### August 22

The Indians killed two fwans and three geefe.

#### At 61.29 latitude and August 25

They killed two fwans, and brought me one of them.

At Dog River and September 9

A fwan was the only animal we killed throughout the day.

From Fort Chepewyan on Lake Athabaska to the Pacific Ocean

February 1

The winter had been fo mild, that the fwans had but lately left us, .....

Near 53.42.20 north latitude

On our entering it, we faw a flock of ducks which were entirely white, except the bill and part of the wings.

Near 53.4.32 north latitude in the mountains

From thefe circumflances, and the general appearance of vegetation, I could not account for the apparent abfence of animals of every kind.

On the return trip

On leaving the mountains we faw animals grazing in every direction.

**Bossu, Jean-Bernard. Bossu's Travels in the Interior of North America 1751-1762.**  
ed Seymour Feiler

General description of present day Arkansas:

There are all kinds of game such as wild cattle, deer, bears, tigers, leopards, foxes, wildcats, rabbits, turkeys, hazel grouse, pheasants, partridges, quails, doves, wood pigeons, swans, geese, bustards, ducks of all kinds, teals, loons, marsh hens, golden plovers, woodcocks, snipes, thrushes, starlings, and other birds which are not seen in Europe.

Arkansas – July 1751 - Game is so plentiful near the St. Francis River that, when we camped on its banks, we found it impossible to sleep because of the constant coming and going all night long of swans, cranes, geese, bustards, and ducks.

During my trip up the Tombigbee.....The Indians, who are real ferrets in the woods, came to inform me that they had discovered the nest of a golden eagle, which is a large species.

On the coast of the Gulf of Mexico.....a land peopled by the cannibalistic Caribs.

P 202 – general discussion of all the different types of birds, insects, plants and mammals

**Coues, Elliot. 1874. Birds of the Northwest.**

Trumpeter Swan

Chiefly from the Mississippi Valley, and northward, to the Pacific. Hudsons Bay, Canada. Casually on the Atlantic coast. Breeds from Iowa and Dakota northward. In winter, south to the Gulf. Said to have occurred in England.

Lengthy description of the vocal apparatus - typical of trumpeters.

I have observed the Trumpeter Swan on but few occasions, in Dakota only, late in September and during the first half of October, when the birds were migrating southward with great numbers of Canada and Snow Geese and various Wild Ducks. Their loud and strange –almost startling -notes were oftenest heard during the night, as the birds passed overhead; but I also saw some Swans flying in the day time near Fort Stevenson, on the Upper Missouri. According to Dr. Hayden, the birds breed in the Yellowstone region, as they also do, according to other writers, in Minnesota and Iowa. We have other accounts of their breeding in Alaska; and Dr. Richardson, who gives it as the commonest species in the interior of the fur countries, states that it nests “principally within the Arctic Circle”. In the fall, the birds proceed along the whole course of the Mississippi: Audubon states that they make their appearance on the lower waters of the Ohio about the end of October, and that they are frequently exposed for sale in the New Orleans market, being procured on the ponds of the interior, and on the great lakes leading to the Gulf of Mexico. The record of the bird east of the Mississippi is not so satisfactory. Mr. Wheaton mentions its occasional presence on Lake Erie: in Mr. Turnbull’s List the species “is included on the authority of reliable sportsmen who have shot it on the Chesapeake, as also on Delaware Bay.”

On the West Coast, according to Dr. Newberry, “the Trumpeter Swan visits California with its congeners, the Ducks and Geese, in their annual migrations, but, compared with the myriads of other water birds which congregate at that season in the bays and rivers of the West, it is always rare. Before we left the Columbia, early in November, the Swans had begun to arrive from the north, and frequently, while at Fort Vancouver, their trumpeting drew our attention to the long converging lines of these magnificent birds, so large and so snowy white, as they came from their northern nesting places, and screaming their delight at the appearance of the broad expanse of water, perhaps their winter home, descended into the Columbia.”

**Jensen, Richard E. and James S. Hutchins, 1782-1842** eds Wheel Boats on the Missouri: The Journals and Documents of the Atkinson-O’Fallon Expedition

August 10, 1825 about 30 miles north of the mouth of the Little Missouri River. At the entrance of the mouth of Goose Egg lake we saw several Swan.

**Nichols, Roger L. The Missouri Expedition 1818-1820. The Journal of Surgeon John Gale with Related Documents.**

In winter quarters at Martin Cantonment north of the mouth of the Kansas River



February 1, 2, 3, 1819 Weather pleasant. Wind from the South. Numerous Geese, Swans, ducks and other birds of passage, have made their appearance, Winging their flight to the North. A few have been Killed.

August 11, 1819. Same place.....Captain Martin arrived from his hunting excursion. He has been very successful having killed 300 deer 20 bears and collected five barrels of honey. (Martin had 20 men with him – the whole party was 359 men.)

September 7, 1819 just above Independence Creek in Kansas. ....Made 8 miles and encamped near Yellow Ochre Creek on the South and opposite to a lake on the North distance half a mile from the River. A few miles above which are two others lakes in the same bottom of considerable extent. Much frequented by Elk Swan Geese Ducks etc.

February 29, 1820 Missouri Contonment near the mouth of the Boyer River in Nebraska .....There are two hundred and eighty sick principally with the scurvy.....

Gough, Barry M. ed 1988 The Journal of Henry Alexander 1799-1814 Vol 1. Alexander built a trading post near the junction of Park River and the Red River in NE North Dakota.

p. 03. At winter quarters on Terre Blanch River near Foot of Fort Dauphin Mountain March 13 , 1799. On the 13th I saw a Flock of Swans at my winter quarters.

p. 44. On the Pembina River (NE North Dakota) September 5, 1800. We now came to two small Lakes which was cover'd with wild Foul. Swans Geese and Ducks of various kinds.

p. 50. On the Red River in N. Dak, September 9, 1800. I had observed on our way home a large flock of Swans to rise out of the big river (Red River), about a mile or so above our Camp, and to appearance in a state of alarm and confusion.

p. 57 Red River. During the last night we heard great numbers of swans and Geese pass, flying to the south and this morning they still continued.

p. 62 Red River. I mounted, rode on full Gallop, the night was dark no other noise was heard but that of swans and Geese screaming as they flew past me on their way to warmer climates.

p. 71. Red River. I killed a fat swan, and opposite Fort Des Tremble I killed two Bulls.

p. 76. Red River post. My hunter came in with his Canoe and brought two Red Deers, a Swan and some Ducks.

p. 111. Red River post. March 5, 18011. I also saw a swan.

p. 127. Red River post. March 15, 1802. I saw a Swan and a Oiseau puant (turkey buzzard) and a hawk, the first spring Birds this season.

p. 161. Red River post. Alexander lists all the types of furs that he bought and every lists includes fishers, martin and wolverine

p. 195. On Lake Manitoba. July 9, 1806. Their principle resource has been along the shores of Lake Maninthonobane (Manitoba), where the wild Fowl breed in prodegous numbers round the Southern extremity of this Lake and as far North as the straits lays a low broken marshy County, which extends about from one to three miles within before we come to Terra Firma. Those extensive Marraises are a great resort for wild Fowl of all kinds. Here the Swans and other (s) shed their feathers at which season the Indians destroy great numbers by pursuing them in Canoes and killing them with sticks.

p. 292. Between the Turtle Mountains and the Pembina Hills. August 11, 1806. We here shot an old swan and caught too young ones, that could not yet fly.

p. 301. Red River post. March 22, 1808. Saw a flock of Swans.

Dunbar, William, et al. The Forgotten Expedition 1804-1805; The Louisiana Purchase Journals of Dunbar and Hunter. MSU, Bismarck Pub,

p. 39. On the Oauchita River in Louisiana. Hunter November 3, 1804. ....it termineated in a prairie of about a mile in length in the center of which was a small Lake, now almost dry in which were a number of wild Geese, ducks & hooping Cranes, but all so shy that I could not get a shot at them.

p. 60. Same. November 17, 1804. In the forenoon saw the first swan which was shot by one of our hunters. It was a solitary one whose mate had probably been killed:

p. 63. Same November 17, 1804. In the evening after we had encamped our canoe came up with us, having been behind this forenoon & brought the swan that we saw this afternoon. It was about 4 ½ feet high from the tail to the bill. The skin was preserved to make a muff.

p. 66. Near Smackover Creek, Union County Arkansas. November 11-12, 1804. Between 11 and 12h saw an aligator, which surprised us much at this late season and so far north.

p.95. near Social Hill, Hot Springs County, Arkansas. December 3, 1804. ....the effect was greatly heightened by a flock of swans which had taken their stations under the Walls which rose out of the Water: as we approached the Birds floated about majestically upon the glassy surface, and in tremulous melancholy accents seemed to consult each other upon measures of safety,.....

p. 160. Hot Springs County, Arkansas. January 4, 1805. The hunting parties brought in two deer in good order & my son shot a young swan flying which proved very good eating being fat.

p. 162 Hot Springs County, Arkansas. January 7, 1805. ....that we dined abroad under the shade of some pine and oak trees, upon the wild game of the forest and the river, such as Venison, wild Turkey, bear, cygnet, &.....

p. 165. Ouachita River in Arkansas. January 9, 1805. Much game on the river, such as Geese, Ducks, Swans &...they continue equally wild and difficult of approach as before , so that we derive but little benefit from that source.

p. 177. Same. January 12, 1805. One of our people killed a Swan which proved poor.

p. 192. 30 miles north of Biloxi, Mississippi. January 31, 1805. ....saw near the supposed place some encampments of Pascagula Indians, who did not or would not understand, english french or spanish & of course could get no information from them. – bought of them two Swans skins for two bitts.

**Freeman, Thomas and Peter Custis: The Southern Counterpart to Lewis and Clark: The Freeman and Curtis Expedition of 1806.** Ed. Dan L. Flores.

This was a passage up the Red River between the Great Raft and the Great swamp June 1806

p. 140. They were passing Swan Lake - A footnote: Detouring through the Great Swamp in March, 1812 Maley will remark on the large numbers of white swans inhabiting on of the lakes in “this watery World.”

p. 267 in a listing of birds that Custis saw from Alabama-Coushatta Village to the Spanish Camp and Return:

p. 267. *Ardea Americana* - Very Abundant - now *Grus americana* - Hooping crane. Was there a breeding population on the Red River?

p. 271. Swans, Geese and many species of Ducks are said to abound in the Lakes about Nachitoches during the winter season.

Trobriand, Regis de. *Military Life in Dakota: The Journal of Phillippe Regis de Trobriand.*

p. 137. October 14, 1867. Fort Stevenson, (along the Missouri) Dakota Territory. This morning the first swan of the season was killed. It is a wonderful bird, not differing from the tame swans in Central Park in New York, except that its beak does not have a ring of black – perhaps this one was still too young, probably from last spring. The day before yesterday, three of these birds stopped on the opposite bank of the river not far

from camp. After staying there about an hour, they continued their flight, and no one tried to approach them. These are the first we have seen this year. They are numerous around Devils Lake, as is every other kind of game, large or small.

Fuller, Harlin M., and LeRoy R. Hafen, eds *The Journal of Captain John R. Bell*. Glendale, Calif: Arthur H. Clark, 1957.