

The extreme disparity which exists between the plumage of the male and female, is not the only singularity which distinguishes this from every other species of goose. It is a solitary bird; it is never seen, like other geese, in noisy troops, flying in the air, or alighting in the fields; but, more calm, and above all, more constant in its tastes, it flies from tumultuous associations to give added charms to the pleasures of solitude, in partaking it with a companion which it never quits; these inseparable couples live happily, for they live retired, faithful, and loving. The *kasarka* has already furnished us with an example of this sort of anomaly in the habits which are common to the goose genus. During the time of laying, the male goose retires to the shore, and the female deposits eight white eggs, in a cavity which she has herself dug in the sand.