
THE BLACK-HEADED SWAN.

IF we imagine a domestic swan with the head and part of the neck of a fine velvet black, and the beak entirely red, we shall then have the description of a species of swan which Bourganville and Pernetty saw in the Malouine islands, on the river Plata, and in the streights of Magellan. Coreal also (tom. 2, p. 213) saw it on the coast of the South Sea, and Frezier and the Abbè Molina at Chili. This last is the only one who has spoken of the habits of the black-headed swan, and he mentions a very singular peculiarity, viz. that the female, who generally hatches six young ones, never leaves them alone in the nest, but carries them on her back every time she goes out to seek for food.

The *black swan*. In our minds the word swan calls up the idea of a bird of a beautiful white colour; but not so to the inhabitants of New Holland. There, our proverbial expression has no longer any application, and *they* ought to say *black as a swan*. A shining
black