

large extent, which are full of vast quantities of bones of the Sea Lion (*Otaria jubata*). Mr. Murray excavated some of these mounds, and found some stone arrow-heads and stone fishing-net sinkers. The island was inhabited at the time of the early Dutch Voyages.

Besides the middens there are plenty of small shallow circular excavations with the thrown-out earth heaped around, which mark the site of Fuegian huts. The human *débris* is evidently of all ages, and I even found a sardine tin amongst it, perhaps left there by Cunningham.

The geese at the Falkland Islands are far tamer than those at Elizabeth Island, and seem not to understand a gun, though they have been shot at now for a long period. The Falkland Islands, however, were never inhabited by any savage race, and the birds have not had time to learn. The other birds in Magellan's Straits, which also occur at the Falklands, as for example the Loggerhead Ducks, show the same contrast in their wildness. They have been hunted for generations by the hungry Fuegians.

The young wild geese at Elizabeth Island, whilst still covered with black down, run amongst the grass with astonishing quickness, and are as difficult to shoot as rabbits. It is no easy task to catch them by running. A brood when met with separates, every gosling running off in a different direction. The young birds dodge behind a tuft of grass, and squatting closely under it are at once safe. It is quite impossible to find them, and a brood of ten or twelve goslings, as large almost as full-grown fowl, disappears as if by magic. The goslings can only be caught by the pursuer keeping his eye on one bird only, and running after it at the utmost possible speed. I had no idea that goslings would be able to secure their safety so completely. No doubt a terrier would find them one after another. They are far better to eat than the full-grown geese.

The ship was anchored in about 16 successive harbours in the passage through the long Patagonian Channels and Magellan's Straits. The run across from the eastern mouth of the Straits to the eastern extremity of the Falkland Islands consumed only three days. The sea crossed over is extremely shallow, varying from 50 to 20 and 110 fathoms in depth.

For the Natural History of the Straits of Magellan, see R. O. Cunningham, M.D., "Notes on the Natural History of the Straits of Magellan." Edinburgh, 1871.

For Accounts of the Patagonians, G. C. Musters, R.N., "At Home with the Patagonians." London, Murray, 1873.

The Falkland Islands, January 23rd to February 7th, 1876.
—The ship reached Stanley Harbour in the Falkland Group