

AMERICAN SCOTER, *Oidemia americana*.

Plate I, Figs. 1, 1a.

The adult male is solidly black without spot or touch of other colour except the butter-coloured swelling at base of bill. The female shows a comparatively normal duck bill, the feathering neither encroached upon nor encroaching on the sides of the bill. There is a more or less well defined dark cap including the sides of the crown, contrasting with the cheeks that are evenly coloured instead of showing two diffused light patches as in the other two scoters.

be traced in a depressed area of soft black velvet-like feathers. The sides of the bill encroaches on the cheek feathering in a square shape and is coloured bright yellow, red and white with a strange squarish spot of black as shown. The female has two lightish patches on the sides of the face like the female White-winged, but the bill surface intrudes upon the feathering of the cheek in the same square shape as in the male and the feathering of the crown extends half way to the nostril and far beyond that on the sides of the bill. The square black spot at the base of the bill is indicated in the

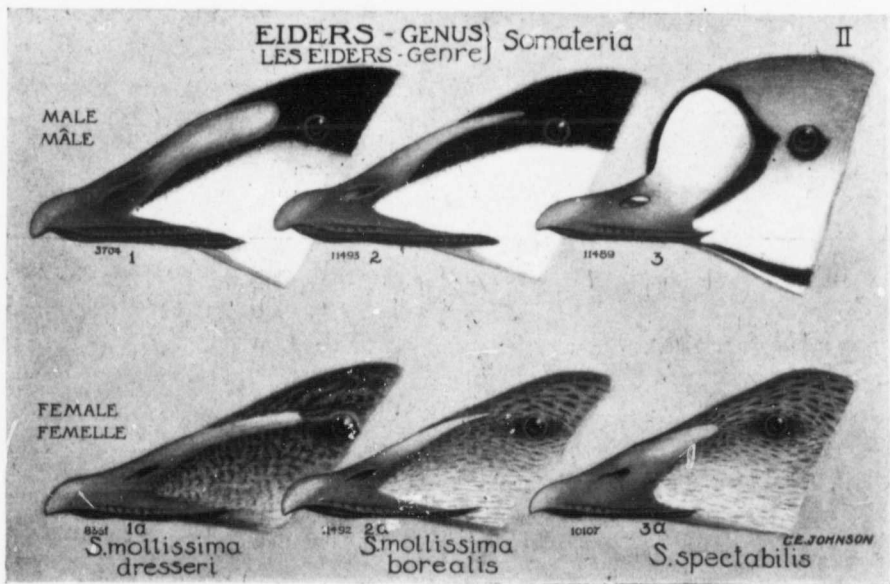
WHITE-WINGED SCOTER, *Oidemia deglandi*.

Plate I, Figs. 2, 2a, 2b.

The prominent white wing patches (Fig. 2a) in all plumages of this bird prevents its confusion with any other species. The adult male is all black with a white crescent under the eye, white secondaries and a bill coloured in bright reds and black. The female has two vague light spots on the cheek like the Surf Scoter, and the feathering of the cheeks encroaches upon the sides of the bill nearly to the nostrils and about as far as that of the crown.

SURF SCOTER, *Oidemia perspicillata*.

Plate I, Figs. 3, 3a.

The adult male is an all black bird with small white patches on the fore and hind crown. In some changing or moulting plumages this latter is lost wholly or in part but its position and outline can still

juvenile male at an early age and before other sexual characters are assumed.

## THE EIDERS.

Adult male eiders are easily distinguished from similar scoters by being colored in large contrasted masses of black and white, the latter variously suffused on face, fore and under parts with delicate Nile-green, pale slate-blue or vinaceous (pinkish). Comparable scoters are nearly solid black, relieved only by restricted, sharply defined patches of pure white about head and on wings.

Female eiders are colored with mixtures of black, brown, ochre and rusty in various proportions, tending towards fine streaks on face, coarser ones and V-shaped markings on back and broken bars across breast and flanks. The cross barring across the upper breast of the females is sufficiently distinctive of the eiders to separate them from any other duck