

of brownish white, elegantly intersected with each other; belly, pale brown, barred with dusky, in narrow lines; sides and vent, the same tint, spotted with oval marks of dusky; flanks elegantly waved with large semicircles of pale brown; sides of the vent, pure white; under tail-coverts, black; back, deep brownish black, each feather waved with large semi-ovals of brownish white; lesser wing coverts, a bright light blue; primaries, dusky brown; secondaries, black; speculum, or beauty spot, rich green; tertials edged with black or light blue, and streaked down their middle with white; the tail, which is pointed, extends two inches beyond the wings; legs and feet, yellow, the latter very small; the two crescents of white, before the eyes, meet on the throat.

“The female differs in having the head and neck of a dull dusky slate, instead of the rich violet of the male; the hind head is also whitish; the wavings on the back and lower parts, more indistinct; wing, nearly the same in both.”

The specific name is Latin, (*Discors*.) harsh or jarring, probably in allusion to the hoarse quack of this species.

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ARTICLE XXVI.—*On the Mallard, (Anas boschas.)*

ANAS BOSCHAS, (Linn.) THE MALLARD.

SPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—*Male, head and neck deep green, a white ring round the neck; breast, brownish chestnut; back, brownish black; belly and sides, pale grey, crossed by fine undulating lines of darker colour; speculum, purple and green; bill, greenish yellow; feet, orange red; rump, black, green, and purplish blue; some of the tail feathers curled; general appearance, similar to that of the tame drake. Female, yellowish, spotted with dusky brown; male, 24, 36; female, 22. Inhabits and breeds throughout North America.*

This fine bird so much resembles certain varieties of the common domesticated species, that the sportsman, when seen in possession of them, generally brings himself under the suspicion of having committed a depredation upon some neighbouring farm yard. In the part of Canada where we are writing, in the valley of the Ottawa, they are not so common as many other species. They are only rarely seen in our immediate vicinity. Sir John Richardson says they abound in the Hudson's Bay Territories, breeding in the woody district up to their most northern limits, in lat. 68°. It is there migratory across the continent, common on the Saskatchewan in summer, but spends the winter in the South. Wilson thus describes the species:—

“The Mallard, or Common Wild-Drake, is so universally known as scarcely to require a description. It measures twenty-four inches in length, by three feet in extent, and weighs upwards of two pounds and a half; the bill is greenish yellow; irides hazel; head, and part of neck, deep glossy