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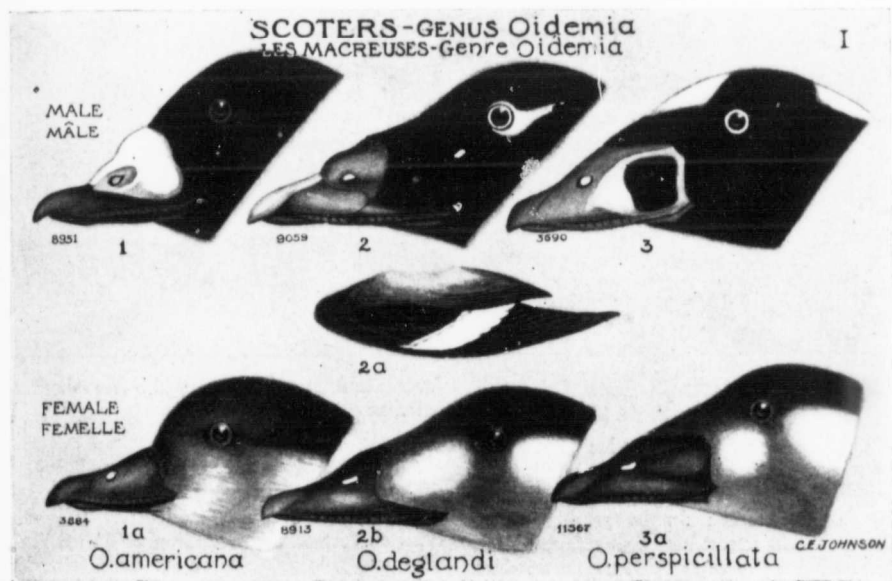
## THE SCOTERS AND EIDERS.

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The scoters and eiders are often regarded by the amateur ornithologist and the general sportsman as confusing groups. Whilst the males are well marked by color and bill characters some females bear close general resemblance to each other. The following diagnosis and plates may therefore be of interest to those who have occasion to identify these

swellings, protuberances and extended processes. In the females these bill characters are reduced; but, except in the American Scoter, they retain enough peculiarity of shape for ready generic recognition. Generally juvenile males are similar to the females but soon show sufficient traces of the coming adult plumage to indicate their sex.



species. Two species of eider, Steller's and the Spectacled, are rather different from the others, but as they only are to be expected in the extreme north-west, Alaska and the Yukon, they need rarely be considered in connection with eastern material.

Except these two species, the scoters and eiders are ducks of the largest and sturdiest build. As the accompanying plates show, the males are characterized by unusually heavy bills often with strange

### THE SCOTERS.

The adult males of all the scoters are practically solidly black birds or with only restricted and sharply defined patches of pure white on head or wing. The females are without variegation, dark brown gradually lightening below or on breast and face, and show no indication of bars or streaks. The bills of all plumages except that of the female American Scoter are characteristic.