

flocks of perhaps from eight to twelve, feeding in low marshy ground upon the shores of rivers. Their flight is very rapid, like that of a pigeon, and when about to alight they drop down suddenly, like a snipe or wood-cock. The flesh of this species is excellent, and may be considered quite a delicacy for the table, compared with many others of the duck species.

This bird, like the black duck, never dives in feeding, but when wounded, like the latter, dives with great rapidity and cunning.

The blue-winged Teal is comparatively easy to approach, consequently it falls an easy sacrifice to the gun of the sportsman. The male and female bird differ but little in plumage, both being of a light grey color and marked with a blue spot on the wing. In shape this species is precisely similar to the black duck, and in habit much the same, both delighting to feed around the muddy shores of rivers. This species does not breed in this part of Canada. They generally make their first appearance here about the month of July, and they are then in excellent condition.

The above are Mr. Jett's observations on this bird, and the following is the description given by Wilson, in his American Ornithology :—

“The blue-winged Teal is the first of its tribe that returns to us in the autumn from its breeding place in the north. They are usually seen early in September, along the shores of the Delaware, where they sit on the mud close to the edge of the water, so crowded together that the gunners often kill great numbers at a single discharge. When a flock is discovered thus sitting and sunning themselves, the experienced gunner runs his batteau ashore at some distance below or above them, and getting out, pushes her before him over the slippery mud, concealing himself all the while behind her ; by this method he can sometimes approach within twenty yards of the flock, among which he generally makes great slaughter. They fly rapidly, and, when they alight, drop down suddenly, like the Snipe or Woodcock, among the reeds or on the mud. They feed chiefly on vegetable food, and are eagerly fond of the seeds of the reeds or wild oats. Their flesh is excellent, and, after their residence for a short time among the reeds, become very fat. As the first frosts comes on, they proceed to the south, being a delicate bird, very susceptible of cold. They abound in the inundated rice-fields, in the Southern States, where vast numbers are taken in traps placed on small, dry eminences, that here and there rise above the water. These places are strewed with rice, and by the common contrivance called a *figure four*, they are caught alive in hollow traps. In the month of April they pass through Pennsylvania for the north, but make little stay at that season. I have observed them numerous on the Hudson opposite to the Katskill Mountains. They rarely visit the sea-shore.

“This species measures about fourteen inches in length, and twenty-two inches in extent ; the bill is long in proportion, and of a dark dusky slate ; the front and upper part of the head are black ; from the eye to the chin is a large crescent of white ; the rest of the head and half the neck are of a dark slate, richly glossed with green and violet ; remainder of the neck and breast is black or dusky, thickly marked with semicircles