

redhead (*Fuligula jerina americana*) is a rare visitant on the Ottawa in the spring. They are, however, to be found in considerable numbers about Black Bay, near the mouth of the North Nation River, in the fall. The body of the male bird is of a blueish-grey colour, the head red, the breast and the lower part of the neck black. The plumage of the female—as is generally the case amongst birds—is much less attractive than that of the male. The red head and the silky black band around the breast are wanting in the female. The redhead is a large heavy duck, and is considered excellent for the table. Large flocks of these birds frequent Chesapeake Bay, in the United States, where they watch the canvas-backs when the latter are diving for the wild celery. After a long dive, the instant the canvas-backs emerge, the redheads rush at them and rob them of the fruits of their labour. The canvas-back eats the root only of the *valisneria*, while his plunderer—pirate as he is—devours both the roots and the leaves of the plant. Like the canvas-back, the redhead will eat little of anything else while it can get the wild celery, which causes the flesh of the latter almost to rival in delicacy of flavour the former celebrated bird. The sheldrake, goosander or water-pheasant (*Mergus merganser*) is the largest and heaviest of the mergansers to be met with here. The male of the largest size frequently reaches the weight of five pounds. In spring, when the plumage of all wild ducks is most beautiful, the male of this species is black on the back, breast and belly a rich cream colour, head and neck a dark glossy green. The bill is long, narrow, strongly serrated, with a crimson line running from the base to the point on each side. The female is much less gorgeously arrayed. She is of a uniform light slate colour on the back, white belly, and rusty coloured red head, slightly tufted. In the fall the male bird appears in the less attractive livery of his mate. These birds make their appearance here early in the spring in the first open water, and remain until the ice warns them to depart. Many, however, remain all winter, and may be seen with the golden-eyes in rapids and at the foot of waterfalls. Next to the loon, or the red-throated diver, the sheldrake takes the front rank in capacity for speed and endurance under water. The sheldrake subsists upon fish, consequently its flesh has a fishy flavour, which requires some knowledge of cookery to overcome. I have seen twelve