

and behind the posterior angle of the eye. Forepart of breast, belly, and vent dull, silvery gray; flanks and under tail coverts darkish, glossy, mouse colored. Scapularies, wing-coverts and tertials, dull brownish black; secondaries broadly-banded with white, forming the speculum; primaries jet black, under-wing coverts silvery mouse colored.

*Measurements.*—Head 5 inches, tip of bill to nape; bill 2 4-10; length, to tip of tail, 24 inches; to tip of claws 25½; length of tarsus 1 7-10; length of middle toe 2 6-10; length of wing 9¾; length of middle tail feathers 2 1-5; extent 27 inches.

The male bird weighs from 2½ to 3 pounds; and differs from the female only in weight, size, greater distinctness of colors, and hue of the legs.

This duck, for its size, weight and power on the wing, when in full flight, is very easily stopped with moderate sized shot; and is almost equal on the table as I have observed above, to the canvas-back. With decoys, immense sport might be had off these birds in the rice-lakes which they frequent; and with or without them, I would desire no better fun, than to be, under this clear moon beneath which I pen these lines, in a fleet birch-bark canoe, with my old friends An-oon-ge-zhig, and the "Young Owl," to paddle me upon the fowl among the solitary rice-lakes of the lovely Matchedash. My life on it, if we should sleep on hemlock tips with a camp-fire