

man. The male and female differ but little in plumage—both being of a light grey colour above, and mottled with dark specks underneath. The wings are marked with a large patch of light blue, from which feature it gets its name. In shape and general contour it is precisely similar to the black duck, and in habits much the same, both delighting to feed along muddy shores. These birds are very numerous in Manitoba and the North-West, where very few of our black ducks are to be met, although mallards are extremely abundant. Like the green wing the blue wing has a harsh discordant voice, hence its latin designation, *discors*. Next to the eider duck perhaps the blue winged teal may be said to fly with greater velocity than any other. Going down the wind, it sometimes puzzles the quickest hand to get the muzzle in the right place. I have seen one of these birds killed dead—and that is a sporting phrase—fall and strike the water twenty yards beyond a perpendicular descent. Like the black duck, the wood duck, the mallard, and the green winged, the blue wing is fond of sitting on logs or on shore in some secluded spot in the heat of the day, at which time it is much more difficult to approach than when found feeding or listlessly sitting on the water. Next in order, or perhaps among the first that ought to have been mentioned in the list of non-divers, is the pintail (*Dafila acuta*), the most elegantly formed and most graceful of all ducks. The male pintail is a beautiful bird. Its colour is a variegated grey on the back and sides, belly white, head a rich brown with a white line on each side, commencing at the back of the neck and widening with a graceful curve into the white plumage of the breast. The pure whiteness of the belly terminates against a black velvety bar underneath the root of the tail. The beauty spot on the wing is black, striped with fine lines of white formed of loose crest-like feathers. The female is simply a sober grey colour, of a much more beautiful hue, however, than that of the female mallard. These elegant birds are rare visitors here, being only occasionally seen in spring during high floods, and in the fall. Their habits are similar to what I have already mentioned as the characteristics of the non-diving varieties. I may mention here that, three years ago, I shot a magnificent specimen of the male pintail, at the mouth of Brigham's Creek, which I have had stuffed and set up, and which, for style and beauty, it would be difficult to surpass. The