

ARTICLE XXIV.—On the Green-winged Teal, (*Anas Carolinensis*.)

ANAS CAROLINENSIS, (Step) AMERICAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL.

SPECIFIC CHARACTERS.—Male, head and upper part of neck chestnut red; a broad green band from the eye down the back of the neck; upper part and flank crossed by crowded blackish, brown and white undulating lines; mirror green, margined above and below with black, and before and behind with white; bill black; feet light bluish grey; the head has a short crest. Female, greyish, mottled with dark brown. Male, $14\frac{3}{4}$ 24; Female, $13\frac{3}{4}$ 22½. Inhabits United States and British Territories—Canada in Spring and Autumn; Winter in Southern States.

Wilson was of opinion that the American Green-winged Teal should be considered identical with the European species. We believe, however, that most Naturalists are now satisfied with the opposite view, and that our bird is sufficiently well marked to be classified as distinct from that of the eastern continent. The male in full plumage is a very neat and even beautiful bird, while the female is clothed with more sober and matronly colours. They make their appearance in Canada in the month of April and the beginning of May, being then on their route to the northern territories, where they remain during the summer to rear their young. In the autumn they again return, their numbers being greatly increased. They are not often seen in the summer in Canada. They frequent the ponds, marshes, inundated lands, and reedy shores of creeks and rivers. They fly about and feed during the night, associating often with other species of Ducks. Mr. Lett says:—"Their flight is exceedingly rapid and irregular, and their mode of alighting sudden and abrupt. They are also very easily approached, and do not exhibit so much alarm at the proximity of man as many of the larger species. Their note is a short hoarse *quack*, which, however, is seldom heard, except when they are suddenly alarmed and put to flight. It is very doubtful whether they breed in this part of Canada or not; it is certain, however, that young broods of this species are never seen here. The Green-winged Teal resorts chiefly to inundated land in the spring, and to shallows near the shores, and adjacent to rapids in the autumn. They do not dive when feeding, but when wounded are almost equal to the Golden Eye or Loon at diving."

Wilson's description of the Green-winged Teal is as follows:—

"The Green-winged Teal is fifteen inches in length, and twenty-four inches in extent; bill, black; irides, pale brown; lower eyelid, whitish; head, glossy reddish chestnut; from the eye backwards to the nape runs a broad band of rich silky green, edged above and below by a fine line of brownish white; the plumage of the nape ends in a kind of pendent crest; chin, blackish; below the chestnut, the neck, for three quarters of an inch,