

The female has the crown of a dark brown colour; neck, of a dull brownish white, thickly speckled with dark brown; breast and belly, pale brownish white, interspersed with white; back, and root of the neck above, black, each feather elegantly waved with broad lines of brownish white, these wavings become rufous on the scapulars; vent, white, spotted with dark brown; tail, dark brown, spotted with white; the two middle tail-feathers half an inch longer than the others.

The sprigtail is an elegantly formed, long-bodied duck, the neck longer and more slender than most others.

### BLUE-WINGED TEAL. (*Anas discors*.)

PLATE LXVIII.—FIG. 4.

Le Sarcelle d'Amerique, *Brisson*, vi. p. 452, 35.—*Buff.* ix. p. 279, *Pl. enl.* 966.—*Catesby*, i. pl. 100.—White-faced Duck, *Lath. Syn.* iii. p. 502.—*Arct. Zool.* No. 503.—*Pearce's Museum*, No. 2846.

*BOSCHAS? DISCORS.*—SWAINSON.

*Anas discors*, *Cuv. Regn. Anim.* i. p. 539.—*Bonap. Synop.* p. 385.—*Anas* (*Boschas*) *discors*, *Swain. Journ. Royal Instit.*, No. iv. p. 22.—*North. Zool.* ii. p. 444.

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 battenn 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