

under water. The seaducks, and river ducks have flat and broad bills with blunt lamellæ. The former is distinguished from the latter by the presence or absence of a membrane or lobe on the hind toe, similar to that between the front toes of all ducks. Such a membrane is attached to the hind toes of all seaducks.

The mergansers, as stated, are expert divers ; as also are some of the seaducks. The river ducks need not dive for their food, and, as far as I know, they do not. Their food is found in greatest abundance in shoal water, particularly along the margins of rivers and ponds.

The secondary quills of the wings of ducks usually exhibit patches of varied colors. Such a patch is called the speculum.

With this brief and general description in mind, let us now classify the ducks that visit our waters under the three heads as given above.

In the first, that is, the fish ducks, we can place two only ; the American merganser and the red-breasted merganser. In the second, or seaduck, we have the bufflehead, the golden-eye, the greater scaup or bluebill and the lesser scaup duck, the long-tailed duck, the American or black scoter, the American eider, white-winged scoter, surf scoter and the ruddy duck. In the class of river ducks there are the mallard, black duck, green-winged teal, blue-winged teal, pintail and wood duck.

#### FISH DUCKS

The fish ducks, sawbills, or mergansers, have the bill and lamellæ as described above. The American merganser has the head a dark glossy green with a small imperfect crest ; the back black ; wings, white, crossed by a black bar ; the underparts salmon tinted. The female is smaller and has a better developed crest.