

plumage of the male, being simply of a dark brown color on the back and wings, with the breast white. She has, however, the tongue all to herself, possessing the loudest voice of any duck known in Canada.

"Wood Ducks in their habits are very similar to the Black Ducks.— They feed close to the shore, in shallow water, and may often be seen on land in search of food, which consists of nuts, seeds, and small plants.

"They are not so wary or difficult to approach as the Black Duck or the Golden Eye, although they are constantly on the look out for danger.

"This species, in common with every other non-diving species, is very fond of wild rice. Large flocks resort to the rice field to be found at different places on the Ottawa river, when they are shot on the wing as they arrive by sportsmen stationed in a canoe or on a Muskrat-house. The first flocks commonly make their appearance at the rice between sundown and dusk, and flock after flock continue to arrive until midnight. On a clear moonlight night, good sport may be had shooting them as they fly in. Having fed throughout the night, the great body of the birds leave the rice field before daylight to fly to their usual places of resort for many miles around, those remaining about the place during the day which have been hatched in the vicinity.

"Although the wood duck never dives when feeding, it is a cunning and active diver when wounded. It is a fact well known to sportsmen acquainted with the habits of ducks that frequently, when mortally wounded, this duck will dive and seize with its bill a weed growing at the bottom of the river, to which it may be found in shallow water, firmly attached after death.

"The female Wood Duck, shortly after hatching her young, conveys them from the height where her nest is built to the ground, by seizing them in her bill. The young, as do the young of every other species, when pursued or alarmed, will dive and immediately conceal themselves in hiding places, where they remain till the danger is over, which they are made aware of by the voice of the parent bird calling them together again.

"In the moulting season the male bird loses his fine variegated tuft, but he may still be distinguished from the female by the colors of his bill and the well marked outlines of the brilliant hues peculiar to his head."

The following are some of Wilson's remarks :—"It is familiarly known in every quarter of the United States, from Florida to Lake Ontario, in the neighborhood of which latter place I have myself met with it in October.— It rarely visits the sea-shore, or salt marshes, its favorite haunts being the solitary, deep, and muddy creeks, ponds and mill-dams of the interior, making its nest frequently in old, hollow trees that overhang the water.

"The Summer Duck is equally well known in Mexico and many of the West India Islands. During the whole of our winters, they are occasionally seen in the States south of the Potomac. On the 10th of January, I met with two on a creek near Petersburg, in Virginia. In the more northern districts, however, they are migratory. In Pennsylvania, the female usually begins to lay late in April or early in May. Instances have been known where the nest was constructed of a few sticks laid in a fork of the branches ;