

water wherever they can find it. They feed on aquatic insects, larvæ and wild rice; and doubtless make considerable havoc amongst the spawn of fish. Although much shorter in the body, specimens may sometimes be found almost as heavy as a black duck. The flesh is destitute of the fishy flavour peculiar to the sheldrakes; still it is much inferior in this respect to any of the non-divers. These birds are exceedingly wary and hard to get at. The run-at-the-dive dodge is the best mode to approach them. I am not aware of their breeding here. The male golden-eye—only to be found in full plumage in the spring—is beautifully white underneath, with black wings and white beauty spot. The head is dark green with a small white spot on each side at the root of the bill. The female is bluish black on the back, white belly and head of dark dusky brown. The buffle-head (*Clangula albeola*) is the smallest of the divers. The male is elegantly marked. The belly is dusky white, quite silky in appearance. The wings and back are black. The head is purplish green, with a large white spot on each side. The legs and feet are of a delicate flesh-colour. The female is simply black and white with small white spots on the head. These elegant little ducks are excellent eating. They are so fat that in the United States they are called "butter balls." The buffle-head is a good diver. Like the bluebill, it prefers broad open water to creeks or small streams. The American widgeon (*Mareca americana*) is a handsome bird of the non-diving variety. It is slightly larger than the wood duck. The male bird has elegant plumage of a creamy red colour on the sides and front of the breast. The belly is white, and from a white spot on the top of the head it gets the name of "baldpate." The female is grey on the back, sides and breast of a reddish hue, and belly white. They are rare here in spring, and not at all numerous in the fall. I saw a very fine specimen which was shot by Mr. Whitcher at Lochaber Bay last fall. The flesh is highly esteemed. The greater bluebill (*Fuligula marila*) and the lesser bluebill (*Fuligula affinis*) are both to be met with in considerable numbers on the Ottawa in the fall, although very few of either kind are to be seen in that river or its tributaries in the spring. Both varieties are short and thick-bodied, white bellied in part, dark brown on the back and breast. They may easily be distinguished by the blue colour of their bills. They are expert divers, and feed on