

changeable green, ending in a narrow collar of white ; the rest of the neck and breast are of a dark purplish chestnut ; lesser wing-coverts, brown ash ; greater, crossed near the extremities with a band of white, and tipped with another of deep velvety black ; below this lies the speculum, or beauty spot, of a rich a splendid light purple, with green and violet reflections, bounded on every side with black ; quills, pale brownish ash ; back, brown, skirted with paler ; scapulars, whitish, crossed with fine, undulating lines of black ; rump and tail-coverts, black, glossed with green ; tertials, very broad, and pointed at the ends ; tail, consisting of eighteen feathers, whitish, centred with brown ash, the four middle ones excepted, which are narrow, black, glossed with violet, remarkably concave, and curled upwards to a complete circle ; belly and sides, a fine gray, crossed by an infinite number of fine, waving lines, stronger and more deeply marked as they approach the vent ; legs and feet, orange red.

" The female has the plumage of the upper parts dark brown, broadly bordered with brownish yellow ; and the lower parts yellow ochre, spotted and streaked with deep brown ; the chin and throat, for about two inches, plain yellowish white ; wings, bill, and legs, nearly as in the male.

" The windpipe of the male has a bony labyrinth, or bladder-like knob, puffing out from the left side. The intestines measures six feet, and are as wide as those of the Canvass-Back. The windpipe is of uniform diameter, until it enters the labyrinth.

" This is the original stock of the common domesticated Duck, reclaimed, time immemorial, from a state of nature, and now become so serviceable to man. In many individuals, the general garb of the tame drake seems to have undergone little or no alteration ; but the stamp of slavery is strongly imprinted in his dull, indifferent eye and grovelling gait, while the lofty look, long, tapering neck, and uprightly action of the former bespeak his native spirit and independence.

" The Common Wild Duck is found in every fresh-water lake and river of the United States in winter, but seldom frequents the sea-shores or salt marshes. Their summer residence is the north, the great nursery of this numerous genus. Instances have been known of some solitary pairs breeding here in autumn. In England these instances are more common. The nest is usually placed in the most solitary recess of the marsh, or bog, amidst coarse grass, reeds, and rushes, and generally contains from twelve to sixteen eggs, of a dull greenish white. The young are led about by the mother in the same manner as those of the Tame Duck, but with a superior caution, a cunning and watchful vigilance peculiar to her situation. The male attaches himself to one female, as among other birds in their native state, and is the guardian and protector of her and her feeble brood. The Mallard is numerous in the rice-fields of the Southern States during winter, many of the fields being covered with a few inches of water ; and, the scattered grains of the former harvest lying in abundance, the Ducks swim about, and feed at pleasure.

" The flesh of the Common Wild Duck is in general and high estim-