

at the base of the bill and a median, angle-shaped line of buff on each tail feather that are lacking in the Black Duck, while the rich buff of the head and throat, immaculate on the chin and parts adjacent, and the broad ochraceous streakings of the body are rarely approached by its northern relative. The Texas race *maculosa* seems poorly differentiated from *fulvigula*; the dusky markings about the head are a trifle more extensive and the black at the base of the bill is less conspicuous as a rule. The adults of both have red legs.

It may be well to point out here an error in Ridgway's 'Manual' wherein the Black Duck and the Florida Duck are in the group 'Wing without any white band.' As a matter of fact, in both of these species there is a very distinct band tipping the feathers of the speculum and it is rarely absent even in females.

It is rather beyond the scope of the present paper to take up the two Mexican species (*Anas aberti* and *Anas diazi*) of the Black Duck group, but from descriptions there is certainly room for doubting their specific distinctness from *fulvigula*.

GENERAL NOTES.

Capture of an American Eider at Chicago.—There appear to be very few authentic records of the American Eider (*Somateria dresseri*) having been taken on Lake Michigan, so that its occurrence at Chicago may be of interest to readers of 'The Auk.'

On December 1, 1908, an individual of this species was shot by a fisherman over decoys set off the 55th Street Pier near Jackson Park, and was brought to me for identification. It proved to be an immature male in beautiful plumage. I made the skin and had the specimen positively identified by Dr. Ned Dearborn of the Field Museum of Natural History.—J. L. DEVINE, 5478 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

Breeding of the Least Bittern (*Ardetta exilis*) in Chester Co., Pa.—On June 6, 1909, while wading through a cat-tail swamp near Berwyn, Chester Co., Pa., two incomplete Least Bittern's nests were found and one bird seen. On visiting the place again on June 12, one of the nests was found completed, and contained 4 eggs. The nest was situated in a clump of