

ORD. III. GENUS XI. DUCK.

BILL, flat, broad at the end, slightly arched at the base, and pectinated on the edges.

NOSTRILS, oval, and placed near the middle of the bill.

TONGUE, fleshy, and indented at the edges.

TOES, three before, united by a broad web; the hind toe in most is short, and partly webbed.

Ducks have a short neck, and flat oval body, with legs very short, and placed more backward than in the geese.

SPECIES I. EIDER DUCK.

Pl. 245.

*Anas mollissima.* *Lin. Syst.* I. p. 198.

L'Oie à duvet, ou l'Eider. *Bris. Orn.* VI. p. 294.

This is the largest of the British ducks, weighing upwards of four pounds. The bill is black, and flat at the end: the nostrils are large, and from them, on each side of the base of the bill, over the eyes to the back of the neck passes a stripe of velvet black feathers, parted on the top of the head by a list or stripe of white: the cheeks, throat, neck, back, shoulders, and wing-coverts are white: the upper part of the neck behind, below the black feathers, is faintly tinged with pale pea-green: the lower part of the breast, the belly, tail, and quills, are black: legs, green.