

ORD. III. GEN. XI. DUCK.

SPE. VIII. WIDGEON.

Pl. 252.

Anas Penelope. *Lin. Syst.* I. p. 202.

Le Canard fifleur. *Bris. Orn.* VI. p. 391.

The male widgeon weighs near a pound and half. The bill is an inch and a half long, of a bluish lead colour, the nail and tip black: the upper mandible arched, and narrow, as in the goose, by which this species, in every state of growth, may readily be distinguished from the rest of the genus: the eye is dark brown: the head, a pale buff colour, spotted with dull black, and almost white near the bill: neck, and throat, purple red, with blackish brown markings: breast, purplish: back, and upper parts, white, with minute waving lines of black, so as to produce the appearance of a beautiful grey: shoulder of the wing, white: less wing coverts, shining green, edged with black: greater coverts, dark green, edged with white: quills, dusky: belly, white: tail, black: legs, greenish lead colour.

The female is brown on the head, neck, and back: belly, white: on the wings a patch of green.

This species, like the rest of the duck genus, varies much in plumage as it approaches the adult state. It is common with us in the winter season, frequenting the seashores, as well as fresh waters. A few breed with us in unfrequented marshes, but the greater part migrate from Sweden and other northern parts of Europe.