

of the same nest very unequal in size; the larger generally three inches in length and an inch and eleven-twelfths in breadth. They are of a deep or pale olive-brown, or dull greenish-brown, or pale brownish-green colour, spotted and dotted with umber, mostly at the larger end. The male continues with the female, and is said to take his place on the eggs occasionally. The female continues to sit crouching over her eggs until you come very near, when she starts forward, plunges into the water, and, on emerging, usually takes to wing, but sometimes swims about with great anxiety, as does the male also, should he happen to be present. On being deprived of their eggs, they may be heard for several evenings lamenting their loss with loud melancholy cries. The usual notes are harsh, and somewhat resemble those of the Gannet. The young betake themselves to the water soon after birth, and continue there, under the guidance of their parents, until they are able to fly, when they all wing their way to the sea. The eggs are laid in the beginning of June, and the young fledged by the middle of August.

"This bird is less addicted than the Great Northern Diver to fishing close to the margin of the sea, by far the greater number keeping well out in the firths and lochs, and many frequenting the open sea at a great distance from land. In the breeding-season, when on freshwater lakes, it is extremely vigilant and suspicious, swims off to the opposite side, with elevated head, when any one appears even at a distance, and cannot be shot without much trouble. I have seen it caught on one of the hooks of a fishing-line, baited with a sand-eel, and it is sometimes entangled in the herring- and salmon-nets. It is very tenacious of life, and, although severely wounded, commonly escapes, as it can easily outstrip a boat."

To this I may append the following note, obligingly communicated to me by Mr. H. Stevenson, of Norwich, on the occurrence of the bird in Norfolk—a county which, being washed by the sea, has many localities suited to its habits, though not for breeding-places.

"The Red-throated Diver is both an annual and, in some seasons, a pretty numerous visitant in autumn and winter, following the shoals of herrings along our coast with great pertinacity. Both young and old birds are obtained on the coast, as well as on the Broads, between the first week of October and the end of February, but, judging from my own notes of some thirty specimens, much less frequently on fresh inland waters than the Black-throated species. From frequent opportunities of examining examples of this bird, I cannot help concluding that its summer dress is both retained and reassumed later than in either of the other species, and that the specimens mentioned by Audubon as having *red throats* in February had *not* then lost the plumage of the previous summer. Whenever these birds appear very early in autumn, say from the first to the third week of October, some few birds are sure to exhibit the red throat as perfect as it is during the breeding-season, and others in every state of change occur at the same time; but I have never observed any traces of red in specimens shot in November or any later period.

"It is only occasionally, however, that these birds appear early enough to present their full summer dress; and this was particularly the case in the autumn of 1862, when a most unusual number of these birds appeared off our coast, occasioned by the extraordinary shoals of herring at the time. Several very beautiful specimens were sent to a bird-stuffer in the City, from whom I purchased one, now in my collection, as perfect an example of this species in nuptial dress as I ever saw in collections from high northern localities. More than a dozen were shot at this time, in the course of a week or two, off the Sherringham beach, one of which, being held up by the legs, disgorged sixteen young herrings from its capacious throat."

The Plate represents an adult and two newly hatched young, of the size of life. The plant is the common Juniper (*Juniperus communis*, Linn.).