

CLANGULA GLAUCION.

Golden-eye.

- Anas clangula* et *A. glaucion*, Linn. Faun. Suec., p. 43.
— *hyemalis*, Pall. Zoogr. Rosso.-Asiat., tom. ii. p. 270.
Clangula chrysophthalmos, Steph. Cont. of Shaw's Gen. Zool., vol. xii. p. 182, pl. 56.
— *vulgaris*, Flem. Hist. of Brit. Anim., p. 126.
— *leucomelas*, Brehm, Vög. Deutschl., p. 927.
— *peregrina*, Brehm, *ibid.*, p. 929.
— *glaucion*, Brehm, *ibid.*, p. 929.
Glaucion clangula, Kaup, Natürl. Syst., p. 53.
Anas (Glaucion) clangula, Schrenk, Vög. des Amurlandes, p. 481.

THIS ornamental species of Diving-Duck is a winter visitant to the British Islands, over the whole of which, at that season, it is more or less abundantly distributed, sometimes singly, at others in pairs, and not unfrequently in sufficient numbers to be designated small flocks. It does not confine itself to the shores or the tidal arms of the sea, but often ascends such rivers as the Thames, the Ribble, and the Annan, and frequently resorts to lakes, large ponds, and other sheets of water; in most instances, however, the birds met with in inland situations are females, particularly those that frequent the smaller streams. The gaily attired males are more shy and keep out of harm's way with the customary caution of all highly coloured birds. To watch the stately-swimming old Drakes, with their large green heads and full golden-coloured eye, through an opera glass is very interesting. When engaged in feeding, their diving-power and the quickness with which they descend are truly marvellous; and the singular attitudes assumed by the male during the season of courtship cannot but please and astonish all who have an opportunity of witnessing them. The extraordinary manifestations of love exhibited by the males in the morning and the early part of the day, during the months of spring, have often been seen in the Gardens of the Zoological Society in the Regent's Park. I have attempted to depict one of these *outré* positions in the accompanying Plate, on reference to which it will be seen that the head is thrown back on the lower part of the back, with the bill at a right angle to the body, an attitude which is repeatedly assumed as the males approach each other, or slowly pirouette, as it were, in circles round the female.

The short thick bill of the Golden-eye, its great feet, and dense plumage clearly indicate some peculiarity in its habits; and we accordingly find that they are very different from those of the Mallard, the Shoveller, the Pintail or the Teal. These latter birds live principally on grasses, aquatic plants, and worms; the Golden-eye, on the other hand, subsists upon aquatic insects, shelled mollusks, and other objects which are only to be obtained from the bottom of the water, and hence the reason of its continuous immersions; the throat, stomach, and gizzard of a female, sent to me by John Michell, Esq., of Forcett Park, Darlington, were crammed with *Notonecta glauca*, two species of *Corixa*, and the larvæ of a species of gnat.

The Golden-eye does not breed in England. In the higher parts of Norway and Sweden, especially in Lapland, and Finmark, the nursery of so many of our winter visitants, it breeds in abundance, and of course in many other northern countries; the distribution of the Golden-eye is, in fact, so extensive that very few of the other members of the family enjoy a wider range; for although not included by Jerdon in 'The Birds of India,' it inhabits all the countries of Europe, Siberia, northern China, and Japan, is equally numerous throughout the northern portions of America, and I believe there are few countries within the arctic circle from which it is absent.

Mr. Dann informed Yarrell that the Golden-eye is "numerously spread over the whole of Lapland, as far as the wooded districts extend, both to the westward range of mountains which separate Norway from Sweden, as well as the eastern parts. It breeds in small numbers on the coast of Norway, but not from Stavanger northwards, and on the Dovre Fjeld mountains. It prefers rivers to lakes, particularly the neighbourhood of falls and rapids. The Lapps and settlers place boxes with an entrance-hole in the trees on the banks of the rivers and lakes, in which the Golden-eye lays its eggs. Although the birds are always robbed of their eggs they gain nothing by experience, but seem to have such a predilection for holes in trees, that if such cavities are to be found, artificial or natural, they always appear to prefer them to any other locality. . . . There have been many speculations and opinions as to the mode the Golden-eye adopts to carry its young down from the holes of the trees wherein they are hatched, and which are frequently ten or twelve feet from the ground and at some distance from the water. That the bird does transport them is beyond doubt. The Lapps, whom I frequently interrogated, were ignorant of it, beyond the mere fact of their carrying them; and there