Genus CHAULIODES.

Gen. Char. *Bill* as short as the head, depressed throughout its length, as broad as high at the base, rather narrowing towards the tip, which has a small *dertrum* or *nail*; both mandibles laminated, the laminæ of the upper one projecting beyond the margins of the bill. *Nostrils* lateral, near the base of the bill, oval and pervious. *Wings* long and acuminate. *Tail* wedge-shaped. *Feet* with four toes, three before and one behind; the hind toe small and free.

GADWALL.

Anas strepera, *Linn.*

Chauliodes strepera, *Swains.*

Le Canard chipeau.

Though the colours of this elegant Duck are more sober than those of most of the family, it yields to none in the tasteful disposition of its markings, and to few in the excellence of its flesh for the table. The European species to which it is nearest allied is the Common Widgeon (*Anas Penelope*), and we can scarcely see the necessity of creating a new genus for its reception from which the Widgeon is excluded: we have, however, given Mr. Swainson's generic characters, leaving it to the option of our readers whether to accept or reject them.

Although the Gadwall does not visit us in great numbers, it is tolerably common during the months of spring. The low marshes and fenny districts, Holland, and the whole of the northern portions of Europe, are the situations in which it most abounds. In its habits and manners it closely resembles the Widgeon, with which it is often seen associated. We have received specimens from the Himalayan mountains which are identical with our European species.

The deficiency of brilliant colours in the male renders him but little more ornamented in his plumage than the female, the external difference between them being less than is usually met with; but the bird of the first year presents a considerable difference, as our Plate illustrates.

Like the common Wild Duck, this bird breeds in reed beds and similar places, laying eight or nine eggs, of a pale green.

The adult male has the head and the upper part of the neck dull brown, thickly marked with dirty white; the back, scapulars and sides ornamented with narrow zigzag lines of black and white; the middle wing-coverts chestnut, with a dash of brown in the centre; the rump and under tail-coverts blueish black; the shoulders chestnut, succeeded by blueish black, and a white speculum; the feathers of the chest scale-like, having a dusky black centre, with crescent-shaped edges; the abdomen white; the beak black, and the tarsi orange.

The young bird of the year is of a uniform rusty brown above, each feather having a central mark of dusky black, the under surface being white.

We have figured an adult male, and a bird of the first year, three fourths of the natural size.