

also in the whitish tinge of the iris of its eyes ; in its belly being variegated with brown and a dirty white ; and, lastly, in the snowy whiteness of the under covert feathers of the tail. Its total length is about fifteen inches. On the other hand, the female of the nyroca differs from that of the spoon-bill duck, in not having even the vestige of a tuft on the head, in having the iris of its eyes whitish, and the covert feathers of the under part of the tail of the same dazzling white as the male. It is distinguished from the male of its own species, by its being smaller, the reddish tinge on its back, the rust-coloured shade on the head, throat, and breast, and by the brown undulated stripes on its belly.

M. Gueldenstaedt relates, that the nyroca lives on plants, grains, and hardly ever on fish ; it is found on the waters of the Tanais ; it migrates according to the seasons, as do almost all species of the same genus ; the male and female never quit each other ; the female lays six or eight whitish eggs, in a hole dug in the earth upon some little eminence above the water, and she alone takes charge of the incubation ; it is a game much sought after on account of the savoury and tender quality of its flesh.

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