

Blue-Billed Ducks (*Oxyura australis*)
and Freckled Ducks (*Stictonetta nævosa*).

By F. R. ZIETZ.

In June and July of 1896 a number of Blue-billed Ducks (*Oxyura australis*) and Freckled Ducks (*Stictonetta nævosa*) were sold at the Adelaide Fish and Game Market. Since that time these birds have not been included in consignments of game received in Adelaide. The former, which are excellent table birds, often became entangled in the fishermen's nets. They have been found breeding on the lower Murray on several occasions. The Freckled Ducks had assumed their nuptial plumage; the males are handsome birds and can readily be distinguished from the females by the elongated feathers of the crown of the head which can be erected in the shape of a pointed crest, and the crimson colour at the base of the upper mandible. Over twenty of these birds were sold at one sale.