

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Federal Duck Stamp Office Presents

North American Waterfowl



Photo: Donna Dewhurst/USFWS

This publication is dedicated to the memory of Robert W. Hines (1912-94), the internationally renowned wildlife artist whose illustrations appear in these pages.

Born in Columbus, Ohio, Bob Hines was a self-taught artist and wildlife scientist. By the age of 27, he was working as a staff artist with the Ohio Division of Wildlife. In 1947, he accepted a similar position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Rachel Carson was Hines' first FWS supervisor in Washington, DC. She asked him to illustrate her second book, "The Edge of the Sea". Throughout the years, his work appeared in many government published books, pamphlets and posters, as well as in national magazines such as Sports Afield and The New Yorker. Hines loved the outdoors, particularly Alaska, and was an avid hunter and fisherman, with a deep reverence and appreciation for fish and wildlife. His practiced eye could see incredible details in a sunset or the breast feather of a wild turkey.

Hines was charming, as well as an extraordinarily talented artist: his personal friends included several Secretaries of the Interior, who would occasionally slip into his office to listen to tales of his outdoor adventures. Hine's sense of humor and relaxed, modest air belied his tremendous talent. Recognized by the Department of the Interior with three Meritorious Service Awards and upon his retirement, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service honored him with the Distinguished Service Award.

Bob Hines' beautiful wildlife art stands as not only his legacy for current and future generations of wildlife artists but also as a lasting tribute to a dedicated conservationist and gifted artist.

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Federal Duck Stamp Program

Put Your Stamp on Conservation

Every autumn as migration begins, artists enter the Federal Duck Stamp Contest. Wildlife artists from around the country compete for the honored title of the next Federal Duck Stamp artist. The winning artist's design graces the next Federal Duck Stamp and is sold the following year.

Buying a Federal Duck Stamp is a simple way to invest in the acquisition and conservation millions of acres of wetland and wildlife habitat for the benefit of wildlife and the enjoyment of all people. Since the program began in 1934, the sale of Duck Stamps has generated enough revenue to acquire over 5.3 million acres of wetland habitat. These lands are protected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and are a part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Federal Duck Stamps are sold for \$15 each by the U.S. Postal Service, Amplex Corporation and many National Wildlife Refuges.

www.fws.gov/duckstamps



Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program

Support Conservation Education

Through the Junior Duck Stamp Program, the Fish and Wildlife Service fosters positive attitudes toward wildlife conservation and mentors the next generation of land stewards. By introducing students in K-12th grade to outdoor activities, we hope to connect today's youth to their environment. The Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest is the culmination of the Junior Duck Stamp educational program. First, students study waterfowl anatomy, habitat, and wildlife conservation. They then articulate their newfound knowledge by drawing, painting or sketching pictures of any North American waterfowl species.

Students submit their art to state or territory program coordinators to compete in state contests for recognition and prizes. The first place state entries or "Best of Show," are entered in to the National Junior Duck Stamp Design Contest. One image is chosen to become the next Junior Duck Stamp.

Junior Duck Stamps are sold for \$5 each by the U.S. Postal Service, Amplex Corporation and many National Wildlife Refuges. All proceeds from the sale of Junior Duck Stamps are returned to the states, to support the Junior Duck Stamp Program and conservation education.

www.fws.gov/juniorduck



Migratory Bird Program

Conserving America's Birds

Migratory birds are among nature's most magnificent living resources and play a significant ecological, economic, and cultural role in the United States and internationally. The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Program is responsible for maintaining healthy migratory bird populations for the benefit of the American people through:

- Population Monitoring, Assessment, and Management
- Habitat Conservation
- Permits and Regulations
- Consultation
- Communication and Outreach
- Recreation

To ensure long-term support for bird conservation and continued opportunities for citizens to enjoy bird-related recreation, the program conducts outreach and education programs for children and adults, through programs such as International Migratory Bird Day, Junior Duck Stamp Program, and Urban Conservation Treaties for Migratory Birds.

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/>

Top Ten Reasons to Purchase a Federal or Junior Duck Stamp

1. With over 550 refuges within the United States, each refuge is managed as a protected haven for birds and other wildlife. Since 1934, proceeds from the sales of federal duck stamps have been used to acquire critical habitats in the lower 48 states. All outdoor recreationists who enjoy wildlife and natural landscapes can thank those who have already purchased stamps. Duck stamp funds have been used to purchase over \$750 million and protected 5.3 million acres of habitat for wildlife and future generations of people.
2. The Stamp costs only \$15 and it's easy for everyone to purchase – many Post Offices and National Wildlife Refuges carry them, and they can be purchased online at www.duckstamp.com. It's cost effective: fully 98 cents out of every dollar (that's \$14.70) goes directly to acquire land for the Refuge System.
3. Duck stamp dollars not only go to refuges, but since 1958, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has used a portion of stamp revenues to purchase wetland and grassland habitats within the Prairie Pothole Region of the upper Midwest and northern Great Plains.
4. In response to serious downward trends of many species of "prairie" nesting birds, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) began purchasing permanent grassland easements to conserve existing habitat for prairie nesting birds. The grassland easement program is integrally related to and compliments the FWS's fee acquisition programs.
5. Not just for ducks, the purchase of a duck stamp benefits other birds too. Among scores of other bird species, numerous kinds of shorebirds, wetland and grassland songbirds are dependent on habitat derived from Stamp purchases.

6. Duck Stamp funds are used to purchase essential wetland habitat which helps naturally process and filter rain and stream run-off. Wetlands help improve our water quality.
7. Some of the most diverse and wildlife rich refuges in the nation have been acquired with Stamp funds. More than 99% of all Waterfowl Production Areas in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Montana were acquired through Stamp funding.
8. A Stamp is a “free pass” for an entire year – for a vehicle full of people at all refuges that charge for admission – a real bargain if ever there was one!
9. Help educate another generation of outdoor enthusiast. Purchase a Junior Duck Stamp for \$5 and all of your purchase goes to help educate youth on the importance of wetland conservation and waterfowl habitat.
10. The Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation [Duck] Stamp is probably the best kept secret in all of bird conservation. By purchasing and displaying one you will show that you appreciate how effective long term habitat protection for all birds and other wildlife can be and more importantly, that you care!



What to Look For

Differences in size, shape, plumage patterns and colors, wing beat, flocking behavior, voice, and habitat—all help to distinguish one species from another.

Flock maneuvers in the air are clues. Mallards, pintails, and wigeon form loose groups; teal and shovellers flash by in small, compact bunches; at a distance, canvasbacks shift from waving lines to temporary V's.

Closer up, individual silhouettes are important. Variations of head shapes and sizes, lengths of wings and tails, and fat bodies or slim can be seen.

Within range, color areas can be important. Light conditions might make them look different, but their size and location are positive keys. The sound of their wings can help as much as their calls. Flying goldeneyes make a whistling sound; wood ducks move with a swish; canvasbacks make a steady rushing sound. Not all ducks quack; many whistle, squeal, or grunt.

Although not a hard and fast rule, different species tend to use different types of habitat. Puddle ducks like shallow marshes and creeks while divers prefer larger, deeper, and more open waters.

Flock Pattern



Silhouette



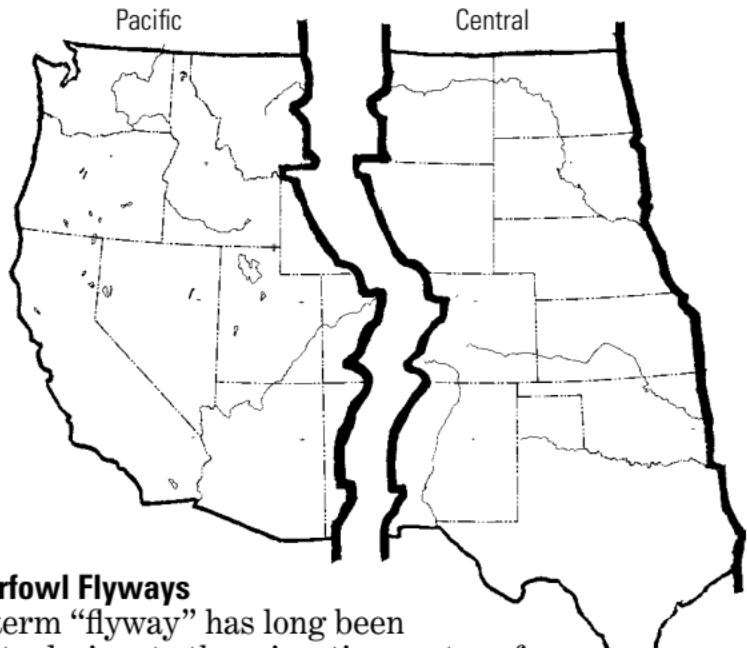
Color Areas



Sound



Administrative Waterfowl Flyways



Waterfowl Flyways

The term "flyway" has long been used to designate the migration routes of birds. For management purposes, four waterfowl flyways—Pacific, Central, Mississippi, and Atlantic—were established in the United States in 1948. To varying degrees the waterfowl populations using each of these flyways differ in abundance, species composition, migration pathways, and breeding ground origin. There are differences, also, in levels of shooting pressure and harvest.

For the most part flyway boundaries follow state lines. However, the boundary between the Pacific and the Central flyway general follows the Continental Divide.

There are some problems in matching waterfowl migration corridors with flyway boundaries because some species nest and winter in areas that do not occur along a north-south axis. These species cross flyway boundaries during migration. On balance, the present arrangement is useful in that it permits reasonable management of waterfowl. At some future time, it is possible that further rearrangement of boundaries may permit better management of the waterfowl resource.



Flyway Councils

In 1952, Flyway Councils were formed in each of the four flyways. The Council in each flyway is made up of representatives from the wildlife agencies of the states in that flyway—one representative from each state. The Councils study flyway problems, develop waterfowl management recommendations, and generally work closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in implementing waterfowl management and research programs.



Eclipse Plumage



Drake: Spring Plumage



Hen



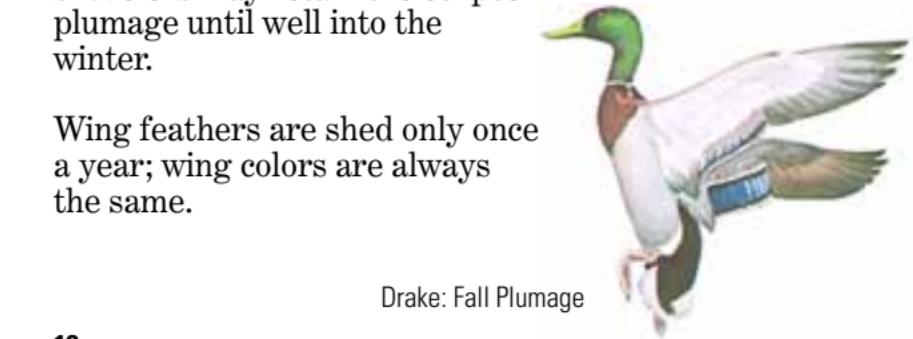
Drake: Full Eclipse



Drakes Emerging from Eclipse

Most ducks shed their body feathers twice each year. Nearly all drakes lose their bright plumage after mating, and for a few weeks resemble females. This hen-like appearance is called the *eclipse plumage*. The return to breeding coloration varies with each species and in individuals of each species. Blue-winged teal and shovellers may retain the eclipse plumage until well into the winter.

Wing feathers are shed only once a year; wing colors are always the same.



Drake: Fall Plumage

Puddle Ducks

Puddle ducks are typically birds of fresh, shallow marshes and rivers rather than of large lakes and bays. They are good divers, but usually feed by dabbling or tipping rather than submerging.

The speculum, or colored wing patch, is generally iridescent and bright, and often a telltale field mark.

Any duck feeding in croplands will likely be a puddle duck, for most of this group are sure-footed and can walk and run well on land. Their diet is mostly vegetables and grain.



Mallard

Length—24 in.

Weight—2½ lbs.

Eclipse Drake



Hen

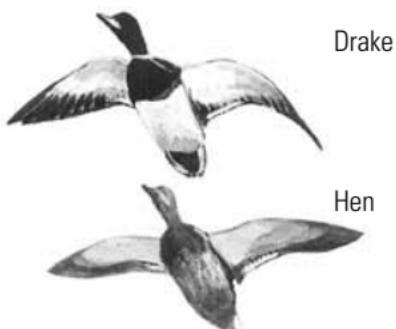


The mallard is our most common duck, found in all flyways. The males are often called "greenheads." The main wintering area is the lower Mississippi basin and along the gulf coast, but many stay as far north as open waters permit.



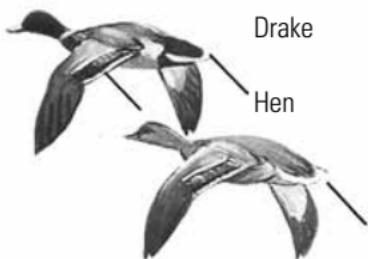
Hen

Drake



Flocks often feed in early morning and late afternoon in nearby harvested fields, returning to marshes and creeks to spend the night.

The flight is not particularly rapid. Hens have a loud *quack*; the drake's voice is a low-pitched *kwek-kwek*.



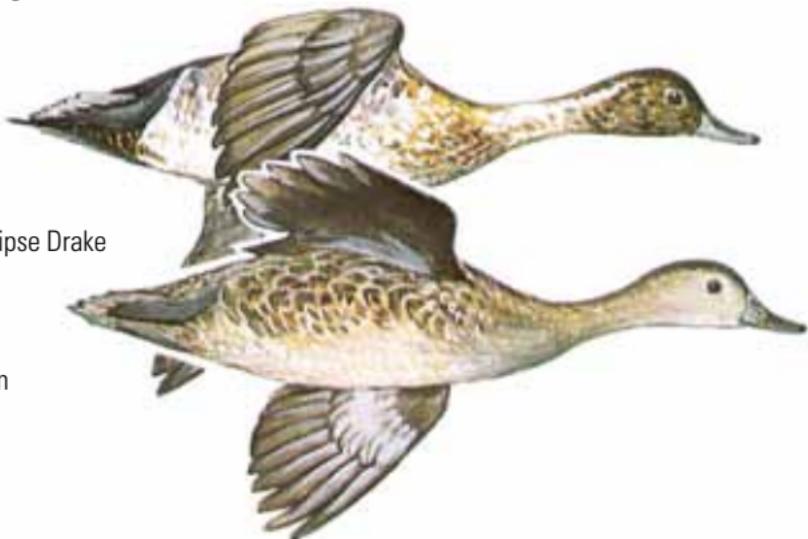
Typical Flock Pattern



Pintail

Length—26 in.

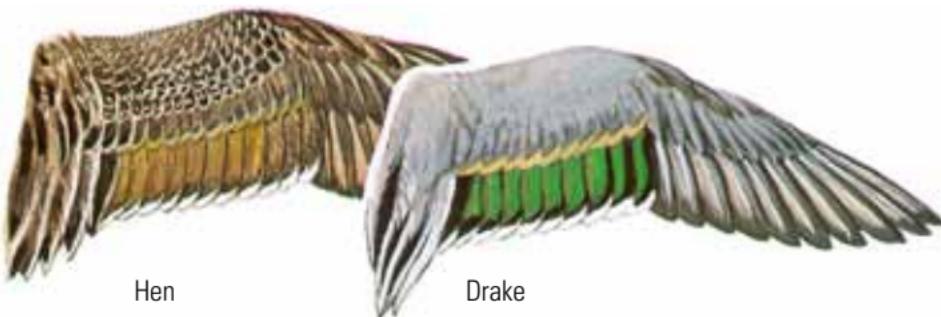
Weight—1¾ lbs.



These ducks use all four flyways, but are most plentiful in the west.

They are extremely graceful and fast fliers, fond of zig-zagging from great heights before leveling off to land.

The long neck and tail make them appear longer than mallards, but in body size and weight they are smaller.



Hen

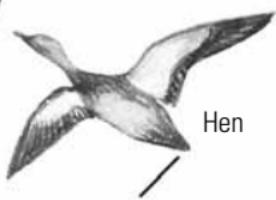
Drake



Drake

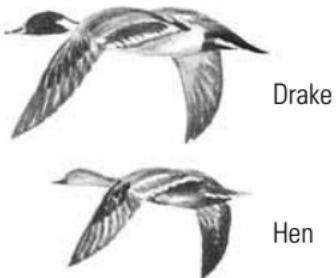


Drake



Hen

They are agile on land and often feed in grain fields. The drakes whistle; the hens have a coarse *quack*.



Drake

Typical Flock Pattern



Gadwall

Length—21 in.

Weight—2 lbs.

Eclipse Drake

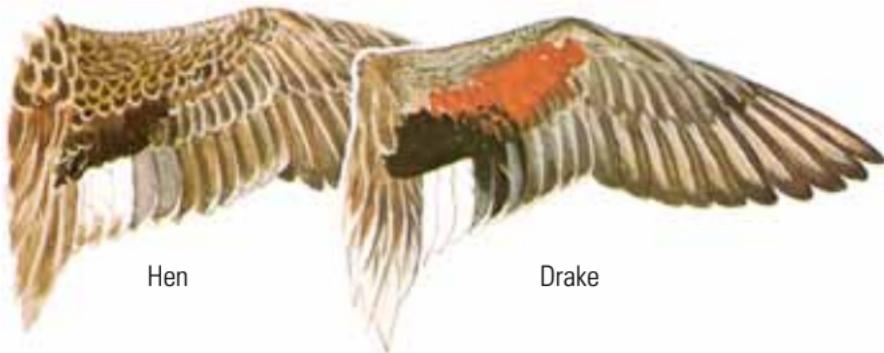


Hen



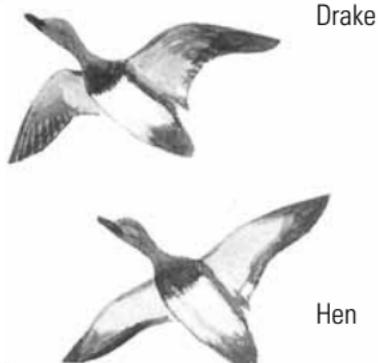
Gadwalls are most numerous in the Central Flyway, but not too common anywhere. They are often called "gray mallards" or "gray ducks." They are one of the earliest migrants, seldom facing cold weather.

They are the only puddle ducks with a white speculum.





Drake



Small, compact flocks fly
swiftly, usually in a direct line.
Wingbeats are rapid.

Drakes whistle and *kack-kack*;
hens *quack* like a mallard,
but softer.



Typical Flock Pattern

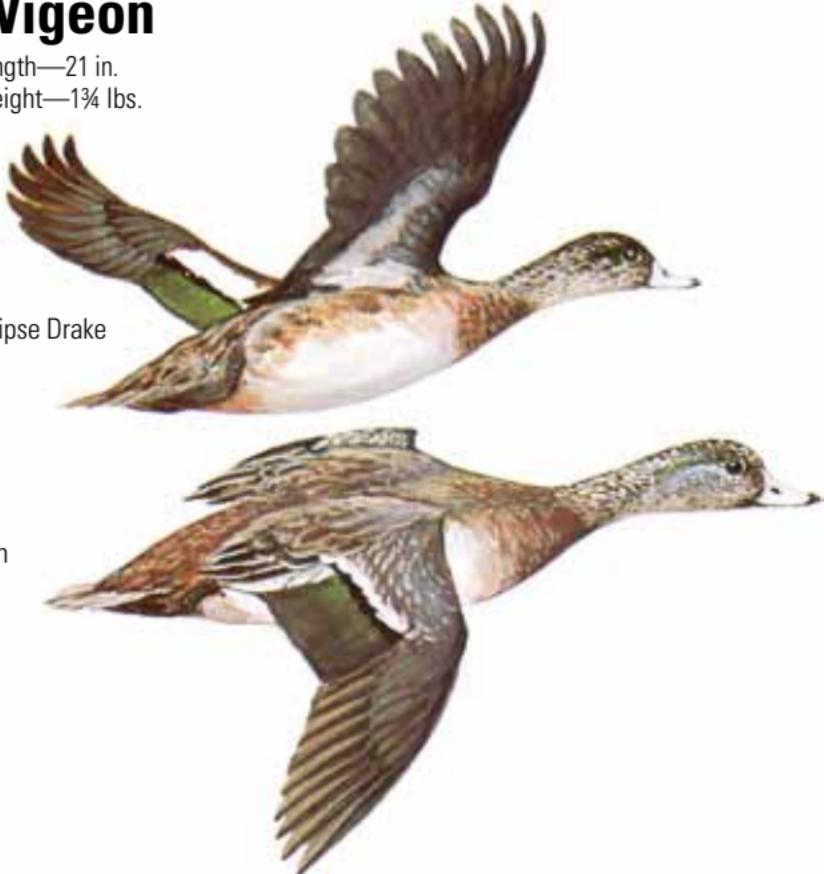


Hen

Wigeon

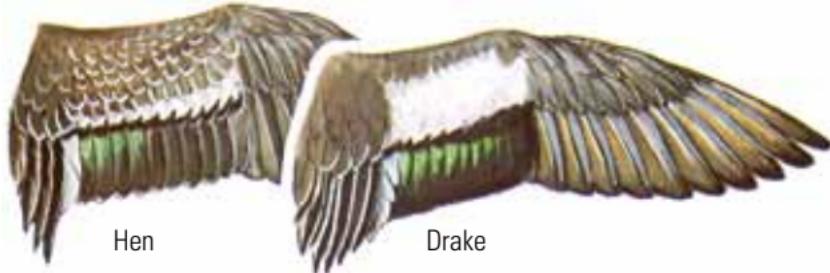
Length—21 in.

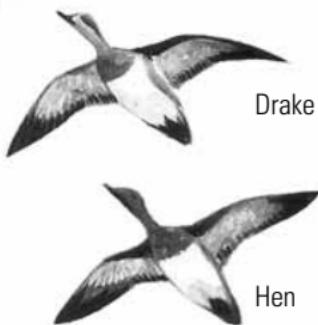
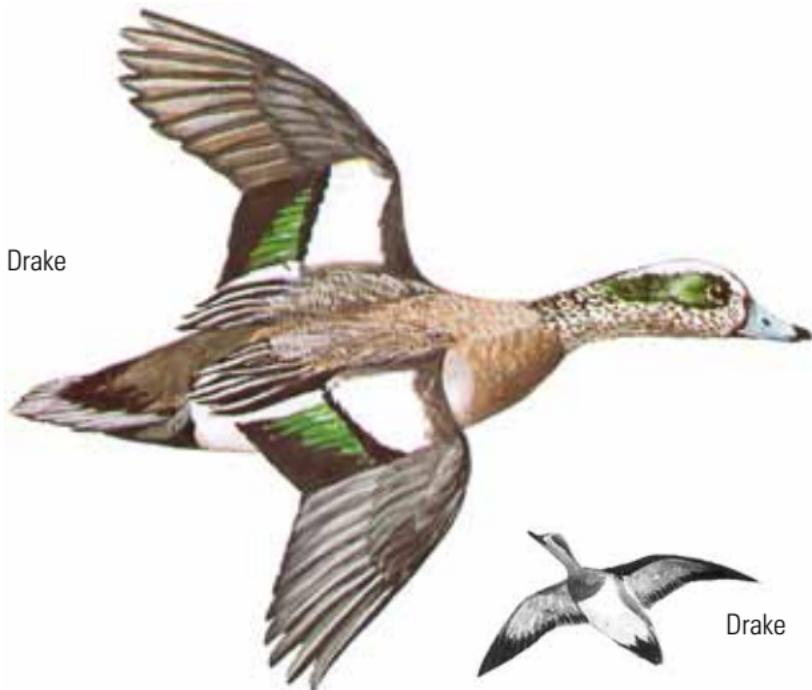
Weight—1½ lbs.



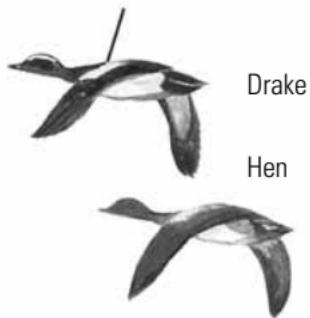
These are nervous birds, quick to take alarm. Their flight is fast, irregular, with many twists and turns. In a bunched flock, their movements have been compared to those of pigeons.

When open water is handy, wigeons often raft up offshore until late afternoon, when they move to marshes and ponds to feed.





The white belly and forewing
are very showy in the air.
Drakes whistle; hens have
a loud kaow and a lower
qua-awk.



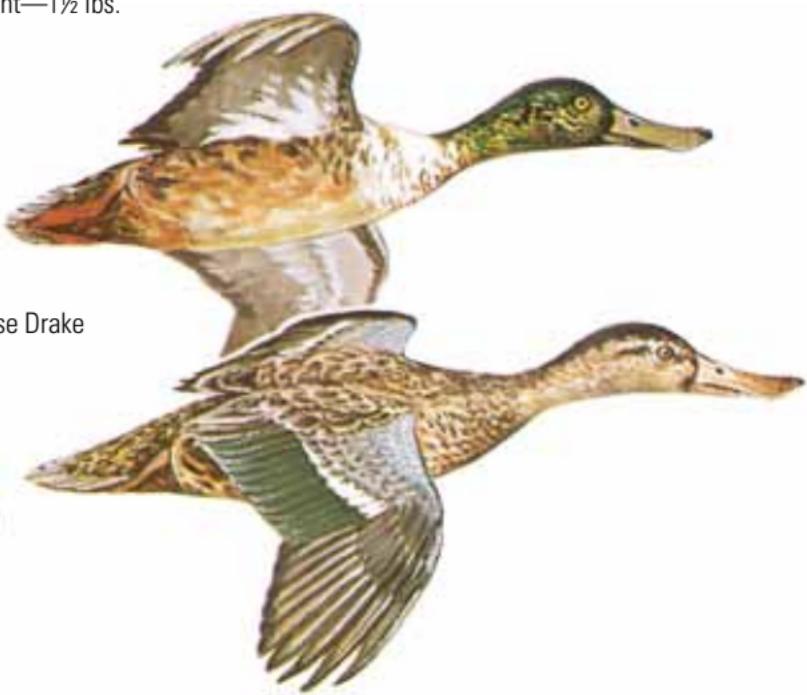
Typical Flock Pattern



Shoveler

Length—19½ in.

Weight—1½ lbs.



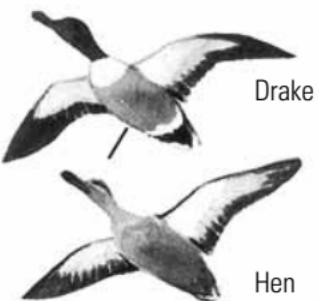
Shovelers, "spoonbills" to many are early migrants, moving out at the first frost. The largest numbers are in the Central and Pacific flyways.

The usual flight is steady and direct. When startled, the small flocks twist and turn in the air like teal.

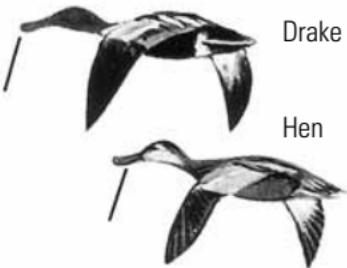




Drake



Drakes call *woh-woh* and *took-took*; the hen's quack is feeble.



Typical Flock Pattern



Blue-Winged Teal

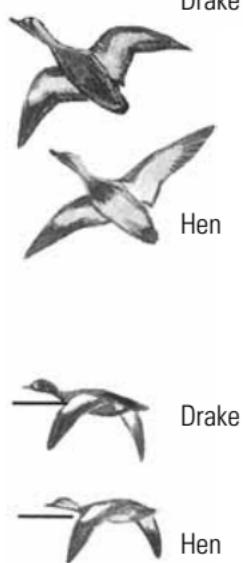
Length—16 in.

Weight—15 oz.



Their small size and twisting, turning flight gives the illusion of great speed. The small, compact flocks commonly fly low over the marshes, and often take the hunter by surprise. They are more vocal than most ducks—their high-pitched peeping and nasal quacking is commonly heard in spring and to a lesser extent in fall.

These teal are among the first ducks to migrate each fall, and one of the last in the spring.



Hen



Drake

Cinnamon Teal



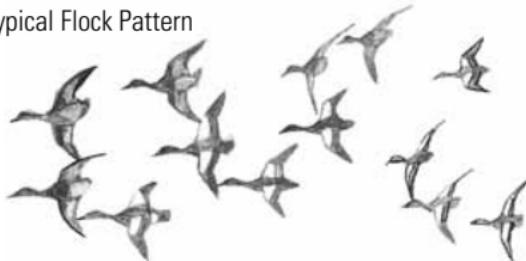
Blue-Winged Drake

In the Pacific Flyway, cinnamon teal are far more common than blue-wings. The hens look alike and the habits of both species are similar.

The pale blue forewing patch is the best field mark, as drakes are usually in eclipse until January or longer.

Drakes have a whistling *peep*; hens utter a low *quack*.

Typical Flock Pattern

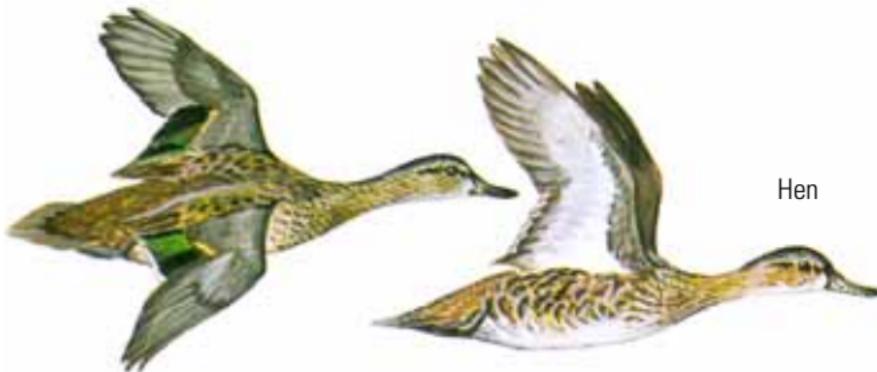


Green-Winged Teal

Length—15 in.

Weight—14 oz.

Eclipse Drake



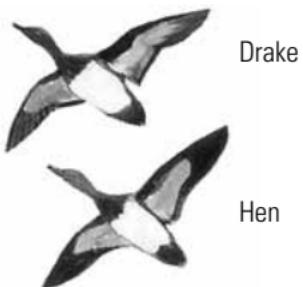
Quite hardy—some birds stay as far north as open water is found.

The smallest and one of the most common of our ducks. Their tiny size gives the impression of great speed, but mallards can fly faster. Their flight is often low, erratic, with the entire flock twisting and turning as one unit.



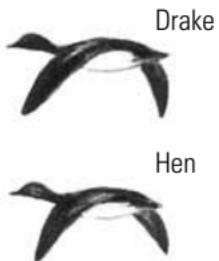


Drake



They nest as far north as Alaska, and migrate in all four flyways. Early fall drakes are usually still in full eclipse plumage.

Drakes whistle and twitter; hens have a slight *quack*.



Typical Flock Pattern



Wood Duck

Length—18½ in.

Weight—1½ lbs.



Found in all flyways; most numerous in the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways and fewest in the Central.

They are early migrants; most of them have left the northern states by mid-November.

Frequents wooded streams and ponds; perches in trees. Flies through thick timber with speed and ease and often feeds on acorns, berries, and grapes on the forest floors.



Hen

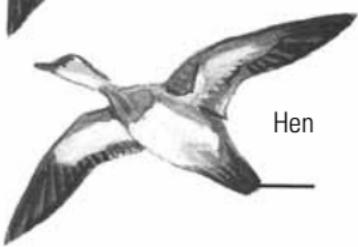
Drake



Drake



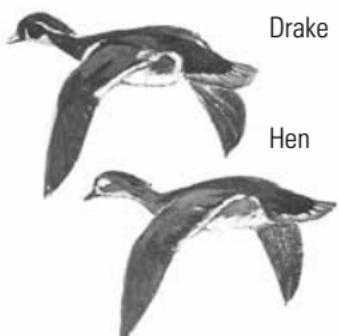
Drake



Hen

Flight is swift and direct;
flocks are usually small.

In the air, their wings make
a rustling, swishing sound.
Drakes call *hoo-w-ett*, often
in flight; hens have a *cr-r-ek*
when frightened.



Drake

Hen

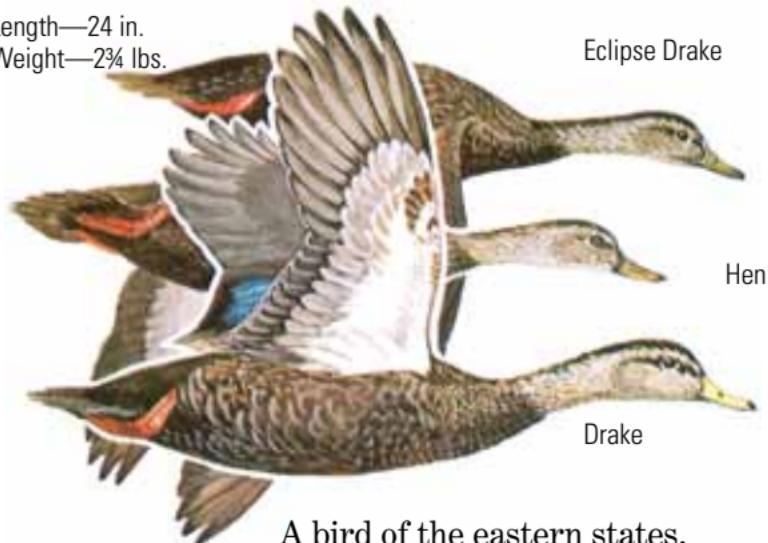
Typical Flock Pattern



Black Duck

Length—24 in.

Weight—2½ lbs.



A bird of the eastern states,
primarily the Atlantic Flyway and,
to a lesser extent, the Mississippi.



Similar Sexes

Shy and wary, regarded as the
wariest of all ducks.

Often seen in company of mallards,
but along the Atlantic coast
frequents the salt marshes and
ocean much more than mallards.

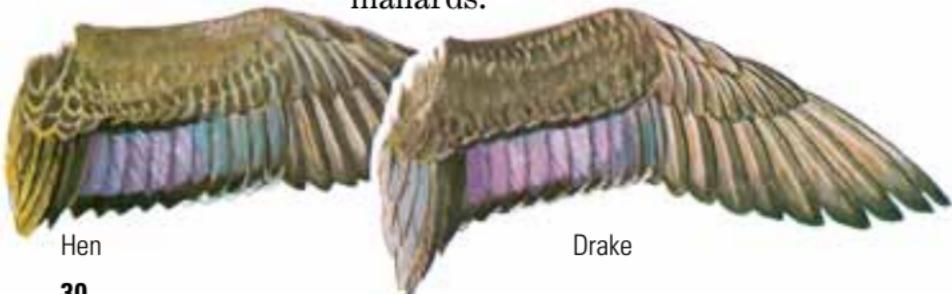


Typical Flock Pattern

Flight is swift, usually in small
flocks.

White wing lining in contrast to
very dark body plumage is a good
identification clue.

The hen's *quack* and the drake's
kwek-kwek are duplicates of the
mallards.



Diving Ducks

Diving ducks frequent the larger, deeper lakes and rivers, and coastal bays and inlets.

The colored wing patches of these birds lack the brilliance of the speculums of puddle ducks. Since many of them have short tails, their huge, paddle feet may be used as rudders in flight, and are often visible on flying birds. When launching into flight, most of this group patter along the water before becoming airborne.

Their diet consists of fish, shellfish, mollusks and aquatic plants. They feed by diving, often to considerable depths. To escape danger, they can travel great distances underwater, emerging only enough to show their head before submerging again.

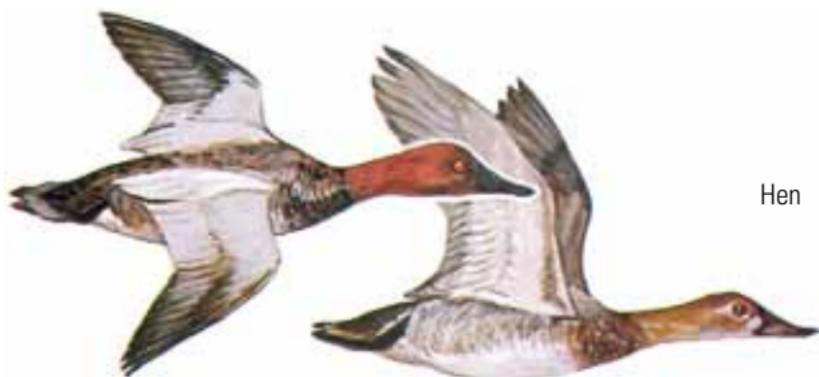
Since their wings are smaller in proportion to the size and weight of their bodies, they have a more rapid wingbeat than puddle ducks.



Canvasback

Length—22 in.

Weight—3 lbs.



Eclipse Drake

Hen

Normally late to start south, canvasbacks migrate in lines and irregular V's.

In feeding areas, compact flocks fly in indefinite formations. Their wingbeat is rapid and noisy; their speed is the swiftest of all our ducks.



Hen



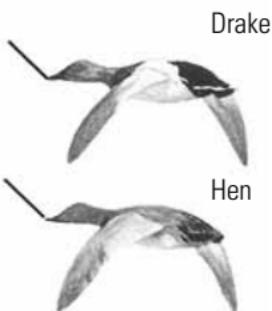
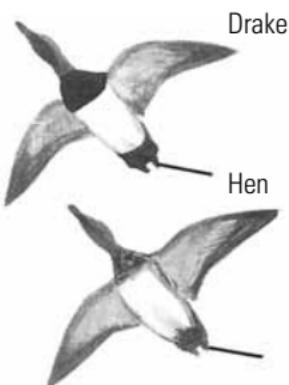
Drake



Feeding behavior is highly variable. In some areas they feed at night and spend the day rafted up in open waters; in other areas they feed inshore mornings and evenings.

On the water, body size and head shape distinguish them from scaups and redheads.

Drakes *croak*, *peep*, and *growl*; hens have a mallard-like *quack*.



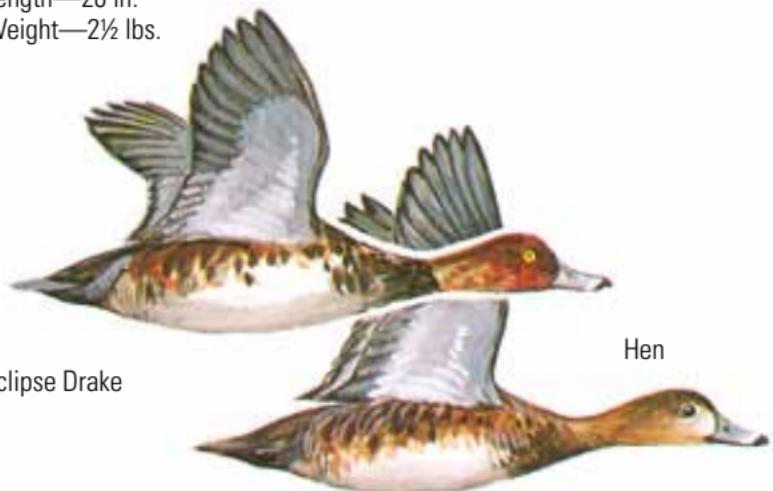
Typical Flock Pattern



Redhead

Length—20 in.

Weight—2½ lbs.



Eclipse Drake

Hen

Range coast to coast, with the largest numbers in the Central Flyway. Migratory flocks travel in V's; move in irregular formations over feeding areas. Often found associating with canvasback.

In the air, they give the impression of always being in a hurry.



Hen

Drake



Drake



Drake



Hen

Usually spend the day in large rafts in deep water; feed morning and evening in shallower sections.



Drake

Drakes *purr* and *meow*; hens have a loud *squak*, higher than a hen mallard's.



Hen

Typical Flock Pattern



Ring-necked Duck

Length—17 in.

Weight—2½ lbs.

Eclipse Drake



Similar in appearance to scaups, but more often found in fresh marshes and wooded ponds. In flight, the dark wings are different from the white-edged wings of scaup.

Faint brown ring on drake's neck never shows in the field; light bands at tip and base of bill are conspicuous.





Drake

Drake



Hen



Drake



Hen

Fly as small flocks in open formation; often land without circling. Drakes *purr*; hens are usually silent.

Typical Flock Pattern



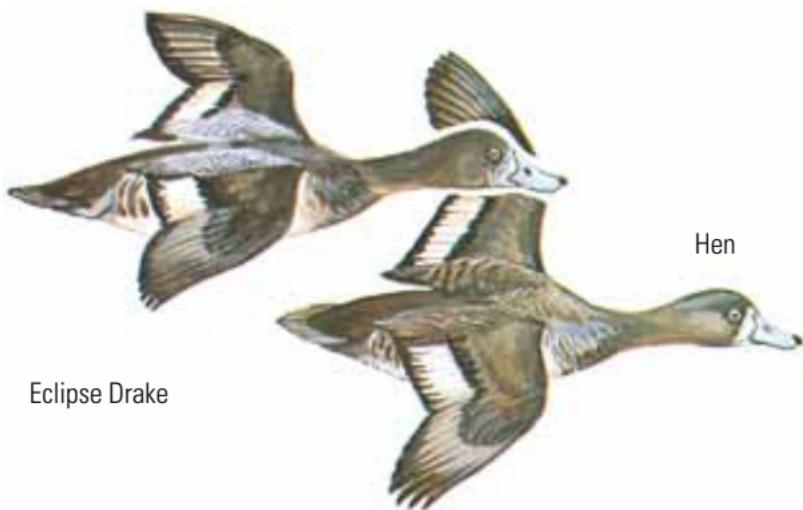
Scaup

Greater—Length—18½ in.

Weight—2 lbs.

Lesser—Length—17 in.

Weight—1½ lbs.



Eclipse Drake

Hen

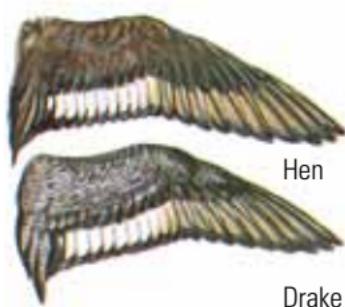
Except for the wing marks, greater and lesser scaup appear nearly identical in the field.

The light band near the trailing edges of the wings runs almost to the tip in the greater scaup, but only about half way in the lesser.

Greater scaup prefer large open water areas; lesser scaup often use marshes and ponds.

Lesser

Greater



Hen

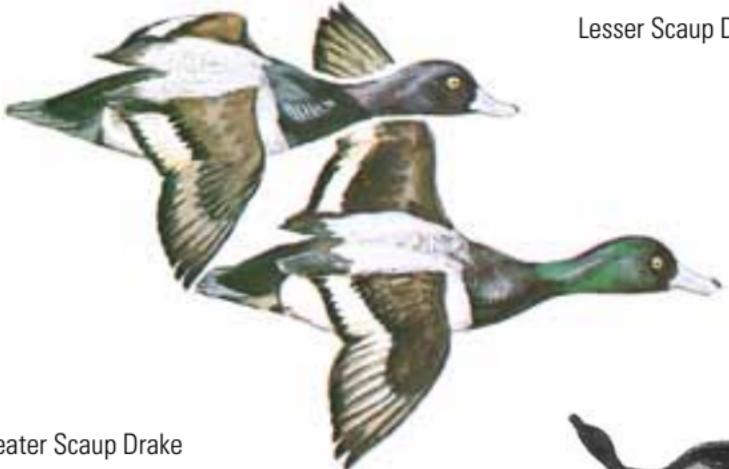
Drake



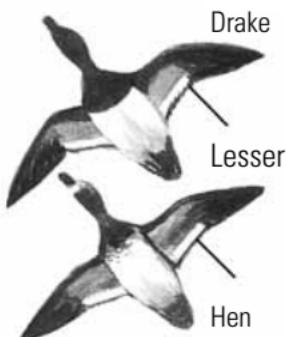
Hen

Drake

Lesser Scaup Drake



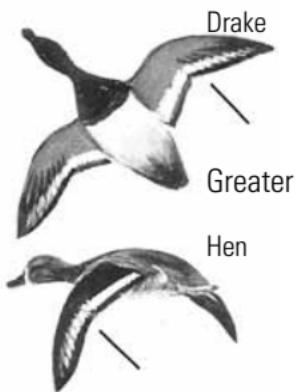
Greater Scaup Drake



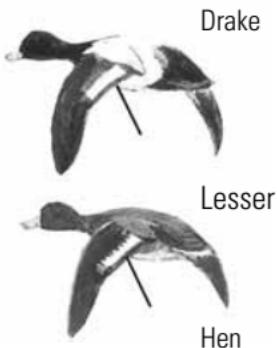
Both species migrate late,
sometimes just before freezeup.

Flock movements are rapid,
often erratic, usually in
compact groups.

Hens are silent; drake lesser
scaup *purr*; drake greater scaup
have a discordant *scaup, scaup*.



Typical Flock Pattern



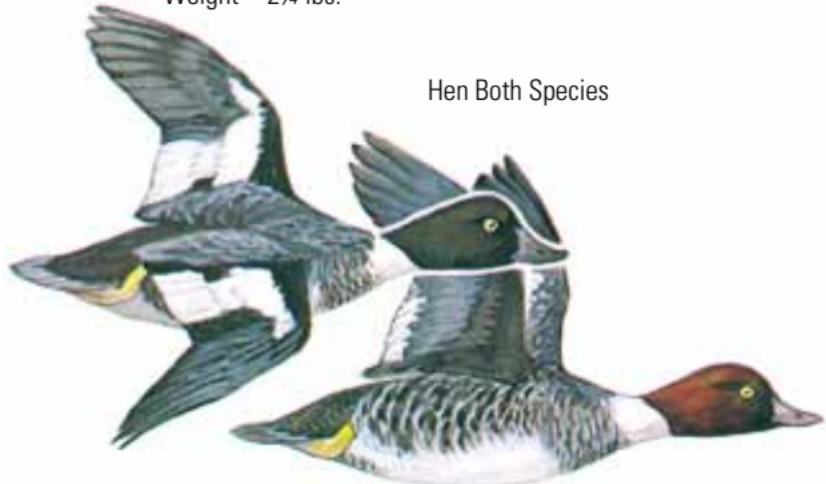
Goldeneye

Common—Length—19 in.

Weight—2½ lbs.

Barrow's—Length—19 in.

Weight—2¾ lbs.



Hen Both Species

Common Eclipse Drake

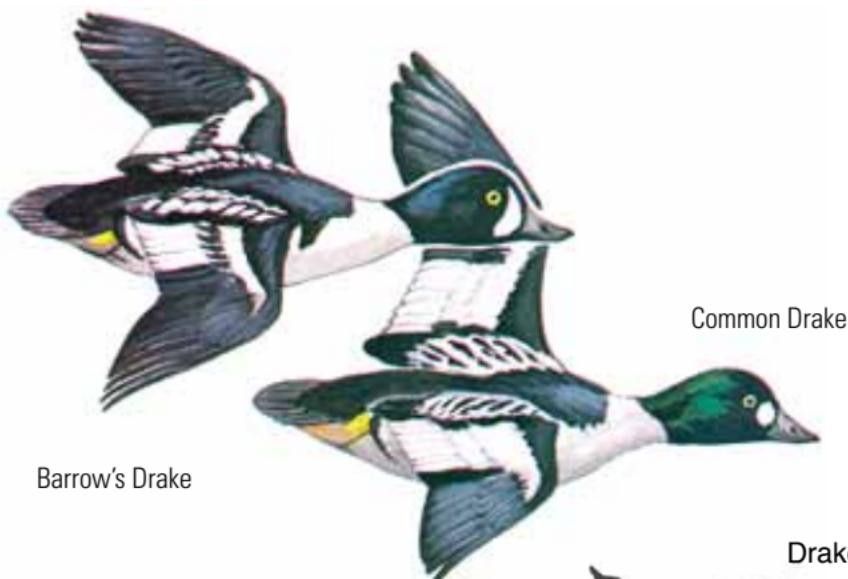
These are active, strong-winged fliers moving singly or in small flocks, often high in the air. Distinctive wingwhistling sound in flight has earned the name of whistlers.

Goldeneyes generally move south late in the season; most of them winter on coastal waters and the Great Lakes. Inland, they like rapids and fast water.

Barrow's

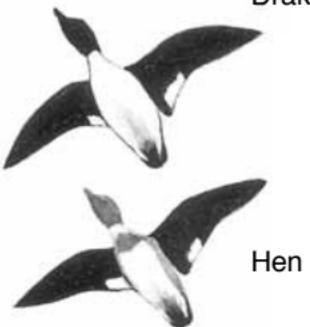
Common





Barrow's Drake

Common Drake



Drake

Hen

Barrow's goldeneye,
predominantly a westener,
is less wary than the
common goldeneye.

Hens of both species are
look-alikes.

Drakes have a piercing
speer-speer—hens a low
quack. Both are usually quiet.



Drake



Hen

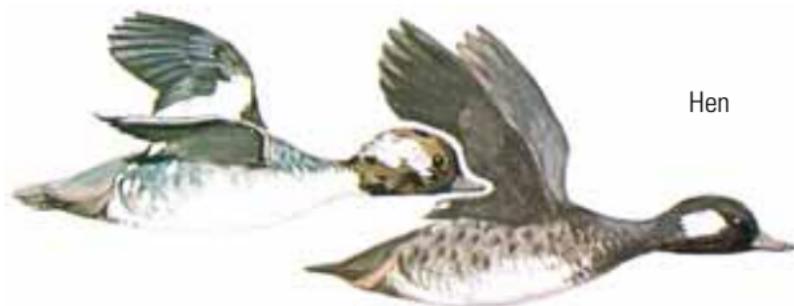
Typical Flock Pattern



Bufflehead

Length—14½ in.

Weight—1 lb.



Eclipse Drake

Stragglers migrate south in mid-fall, but the largest numbers move just ahead of freezeup. Most flocks in feeding areas are small—5 or 6 birds, with more hens and immatures than adult drakes.

Very small size, bold black and white color pattern, and low, swift flight are field marks. Unlike most divers, they can fly straight up from a watery takeoff.



Hen

Drake



Drake

Drake



Hen

Largest concentrations are on both seacoasts and along the Gulf of Mexico. Inland, they will remain as far north as open water permits.

Usually silent. Drakes *squeak* and have a guttural note; hens *quack* weakly.



Drake



Hen



Typical Flock Pattern



Ruddy Duck

Length—15½ in.

Weight—1½ lbs.



Winter Drake

Hen

The ruddy duck often dives or swims away from danger rather than flying. When flying, their small wings stroke so fast they resemble bumblebees.



Sexes Similar

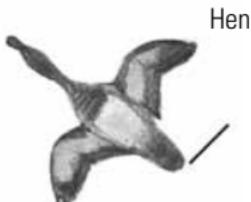


Summer Drake

Drake



They are early to mid-fall migrants.



Hen

Drakes often cock their tails upright at an angle, the only species to habitually do so.



Drake

Both hens and drakes are silent in the fall.



Hen

Typical Flock Pattern

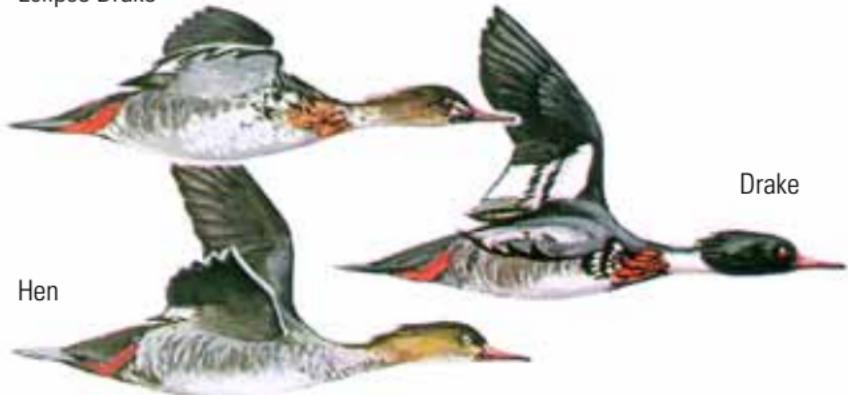


Red-Breasted Merganser

Length—23 in.

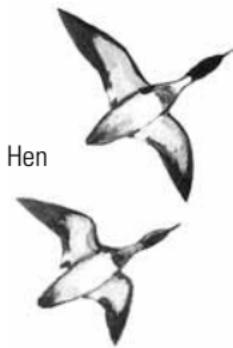
Weight—2½ lbs.

Eclipse Drake



Hen

Drake



Drake

Hen

Hen

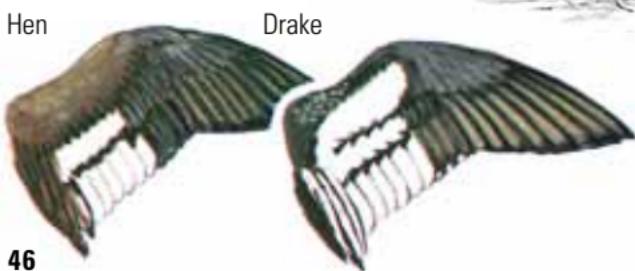
Drake

These birds winter most abundantly in coastal waters, including the Gulf of Mexico, and to a lesser extent, the Great Lakes.

Their flight, strong and direct, is usually low over the water. They are difficult to distinguish in flight from the common merganser.

Voice: Seldom heard.

Typical Flock Pattern



Common Merganser

Length—25½ in.

Weight—2½ lbs.

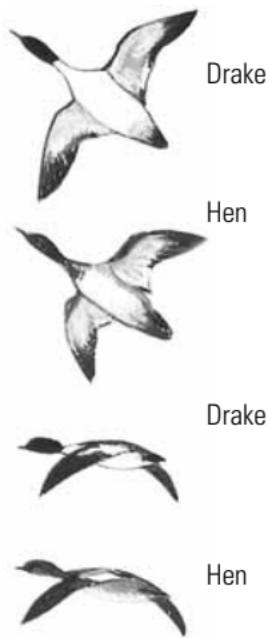


This species is larger than the red-breasted merganser, and is one of the largest of our ducks. It is one of the last to migrate south, and is more common than the red-breasted merganser on inland waters.

Flocks move in “follow the leader” style, low over the water.

The only call seems to be a startled *croak*.

Typical Flock Pattern



Hen

Drake



Hooded Merganser

Length—18 in.

Weight—1½ lbs.

Eclipse Drake



Drake



Hen



Drake



Hen



Often seen in pairs, or very small flocks. Short rapid wingstrokes create an impression of great speed.

Winters in the inland waters of all coastal states; seldom goes to salt water.

Voice: Seldom heard in fall.

Hen



Drake



Whistling Ducks

Length—18–19 in.

Weight—1½ lbs.

Fulvous



Black-Bellied



The trailing legs and rounded wings of these slow flying ducks makes them look bigger than they are.

Both species are primarily Mexican. In the United States, the black-bellied is found only in south Texas and Louisiana.

The fulvous also occurs there and in Florida, with occasional stragglers further north along both coasts and the Mississippi Valley. The fulvous is the more common of the two species in the United States.

Sexes are alike. Both species have shrill whistling calls.



Fulvous



Black-Bellied



Fulvous



Black-Bellied

White-Winged Scoter

Length—21½ in.

Weight—3½ lbs.



The three scoters on these two pages are sea ducks, wintering on open coastal waters. White-wings are among the heaviest and largest of all ducks.

Surf Scoter

Length—19½ in.

Weight—2 lbs.



Like all scoters, these birds move along our coasts in loose flocks, stringing into irregular, wavy lines. Drakes can be distinguished from other scoters by two white patches on their head and the bright color of the bill.

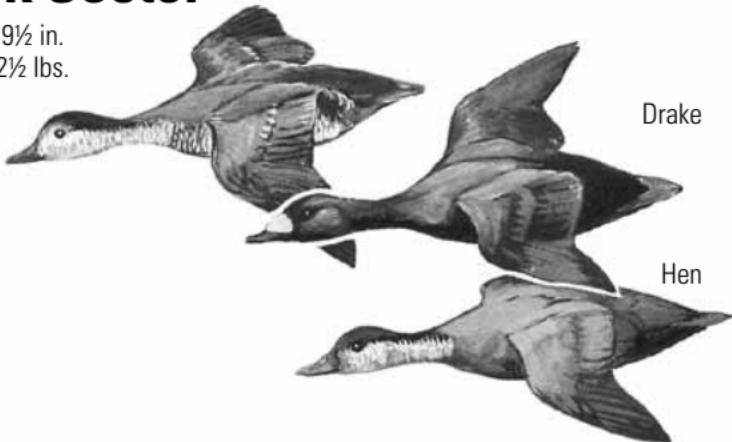
Flight is strong, direct, usually close to the waves.

Black Scoter

Length—19½ in.

Weight—2½ lbs.

Immature



In flight, drakes appear all black except for the flash of the slight gray underwing and the bright yellow swelling at the base of the upper bill.

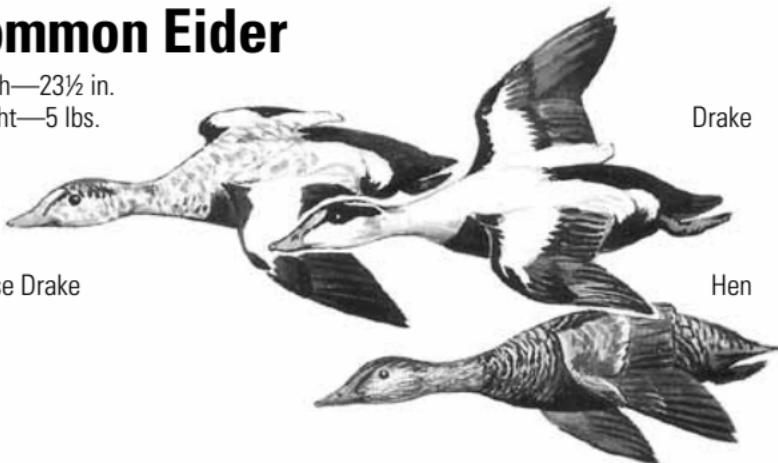
Scoters feed on mollusks, crabs, and some fish and very little vegetation. They are locally known as "coots."

Common Eider

Length—23½ in.

Weight—5 lbs.

Eclipse Drake



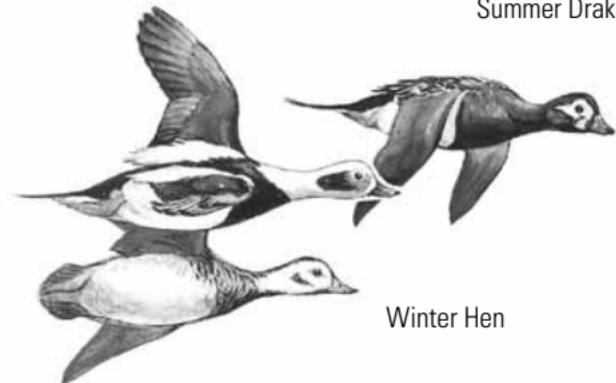
Thick-necked stocky birds, alternately flapping and sailing in flight; flocks string out in a line, close to the water. Occurs in the United States chiefly along New England coasts and occasionally south to New Jersey.

Other eiders—king, spectacled and Stellar's—occur in Alaska and are not pictured in this guide. King eiders occasionally are found in north Atlantic coastal waters.

Long-tailed Duck

Length—20½ in.
Weight—2 lbs.

Winter Drake



Summer Drake

Winter Hen

A slim, brightly plumaged sea duck. Smaller than the scoters or eiders.

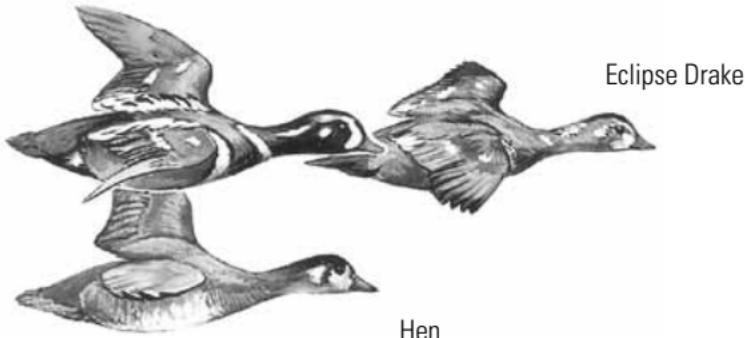
Flight is swift and low with constantly changing flock formations. Ranges along both coasts and the Great Lakes.

One of the most vocal of ducks; drakes have a loud pleasant *caloo, caloo*, constantly heard.

Harlequin Duck

Length—17 in.
Weight—1½ lbs.

Drake



Eclipse Drake

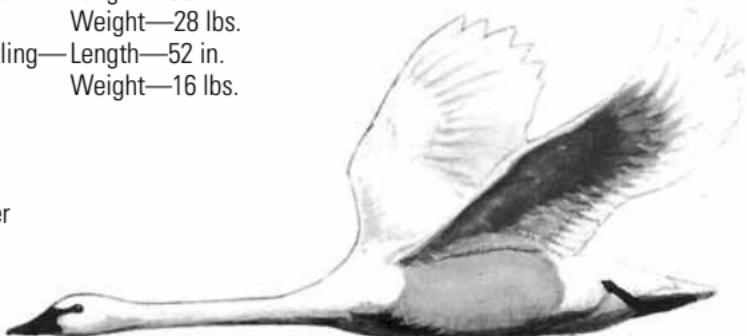
Hen

Glossy slate-blue plumage enlivened by white stripes and spots give the adult male harlequin a striking appearance. The female resembles a small female scoter. At a distance, both sexes look black. Flight is swift, with abrupt turns. Flocks are small and compact. Ranges both coasts, north from New Jersey and San Francisco. Uncommon.

Swans

Trumpeter—Length—59 in.
Weight—28 lbs.
Whistling—Length—52 in.
Weight—16 lbs.

Trumpeter



Immature: Both Species



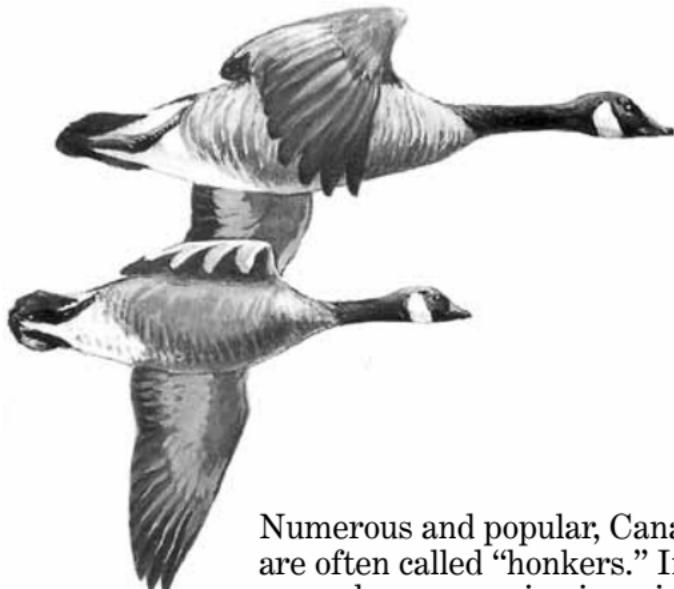
Tundra

Once thought to be rare, trumpeter swans are slowly increasing in Alaska and on western refuges and parks.

Whistling swans are common and increasing. They winter near Chesapeake Bay, San Francisco Bay, Puget Sound and Salton Sea. Occasionally found in fields.

Both species are large with pure white plumage.

Canada Geese



Numerous and popular, Canada geese are often called "honkers." Includes several races varying in weight from 3 to over 12 pounds. All have black heads and necks, white cheeks, similar habitats and voices. Sexes are identical.

Brant

Length—24–25 in.

Weight— $3\frac{1}{4}$ – $3\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

Black Brant



Brant

These are sea geese, the blacks wintering south to Baja, California, in the Pacific. The Atlantic race winters from Virginia northward.

Flight is swift, in irregular and changing flock patterns.

Snow Geese

Length—29–31 in.

Weight—6½–7½ lbs.

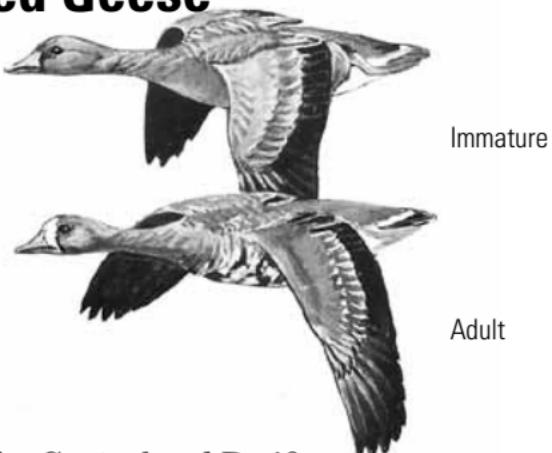


Two races of snow geese are recognized: greater snows along the Atlantic Coast, and lesser snows elsewhere on the continent. Blue geese are a color phase of the lesser snow.

White-Fronted Geese

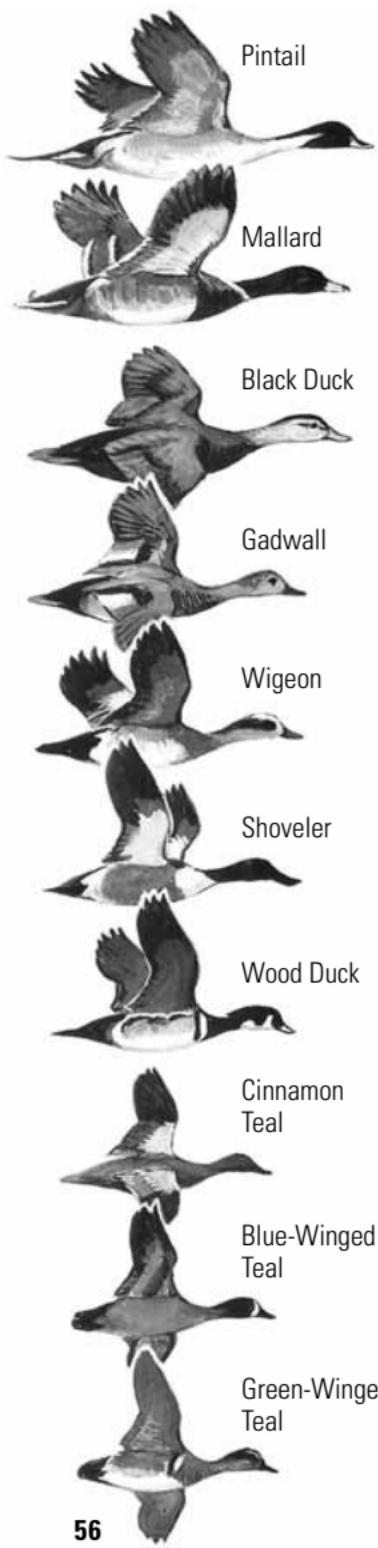
Length—29 in.

Weight—6¼ lbs.



Migrates chiefly in the Central and Pacific flyways but also present in the Mississippi. Rare in the Atlantic Flyway. Appears brownish gray at a distance. Often called "specklebelly."

Most distinctive characteristic of the V-shaped flocks is the high pitched call *kow-kow-kow-kow*.





COMPARATIVE SIZES OF WATERFOWL

All birds on
these pages
are drawn to
the same scale.

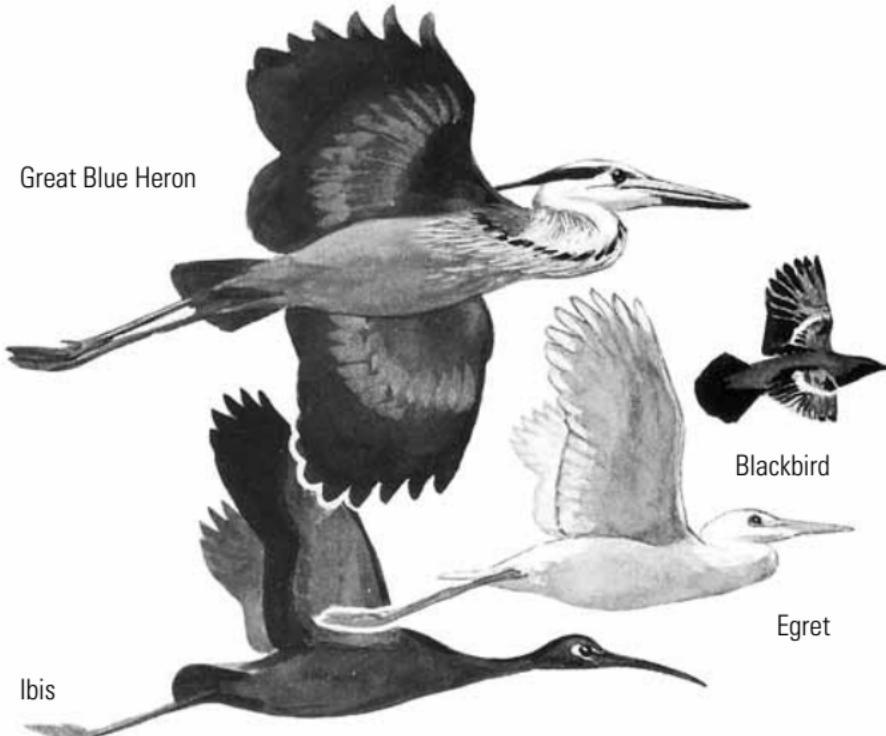
Wetlands Attract Wildlife

There's more than just ducks in our marshes. Knowing and identifying other birds and animals add to the enjoyment of being in a blind.

The same sources of food and shelter that draw waterfowl to ponds and marshes also attract other forms of wildlife.

Protected species are sometimes more numerous than ducks or geese.

Money from Duck Stamp sales is used exclusively to purchase wetlands, preserving areas for ducks, geese, and all wildlife for the enjoyment and pleasure of hunters and non-hunters alike.





Cormorant



White Pelican

Black Tern



Common Tern

Northern Harrier



Yellowlegs



Dowitcher



Herring Gull

Grebe



Short-Eared Owl



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September 2010

