

Waterfowl Identification

WFS 340

Order
Anseriformes




Anas acuta

Family
Anatidae

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University of Tennessee


Subfamily *Anserinae*

Tribe *Dendrocygnini*




**Whistling or
Treeducks**
(Not Covered)

Tribe *Cygnini*



Swans
(Not Required)


Tribe *Anserini*



True Geese

Mute Swan

(*Cygnus olor*)





"The Most Aggressive Swan in NA"


40 in. BL
90 in. WS

- Not native
- Large, long-necked waterbird with entirely white plumage and black legs and feet
- Orange bill with black base; knob above bill
 - Neck held in distinctive "S" curve
 - Wings hum in flight

Trumpeter Swan
(*Cygnus buccinator*)

45 in. BL
95 in. WS


Largest NA Waterfowl



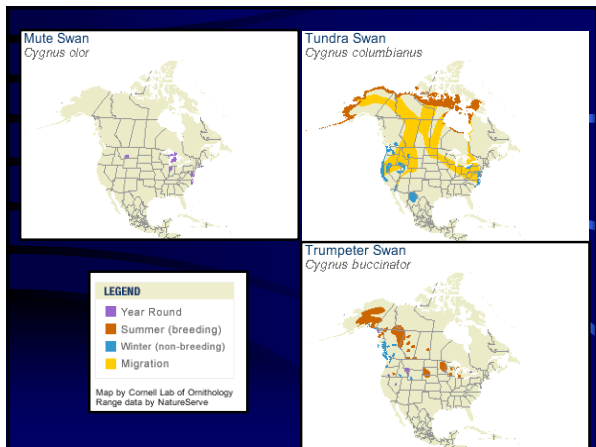
- Large, long-necked waterbird with entirely white plumage and black legs and feet
 - Long neck usually held straight up
- Long, solid black bill that extends to eye but does not encircle it

Tundra Swan
(*Cygnus columbianus*)

36 in. BL
85 in. WS



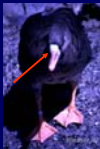
- Large, long-necked waterbird with entirely white plumage and black legs and feet
- Neck usually held straight up (shorter than trumpeter)
- Long, slightly concave black bill that extends to eye ending in a yellow “tear drop”



White-fronted Goose

(*Anser albifrons*)

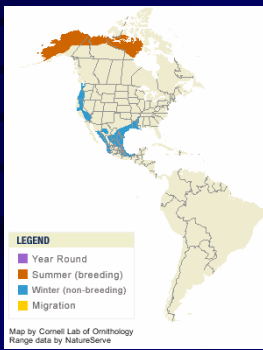
20 in. BL
60 in. WS



- Medium-sized long-necked goose
 - **Mostly brown plumage**
- **White patch at base of pink or orange bill**
 - **Irregular black flecking on belly**
 - **Orange legs and feet**

White-fronted Goose

(*Anser albifrons*)



Snow Goose

(*Chen caerulescens*)

19 in. BL



58 in. WS

- Medium-sized Goose
 - Pink bill w/ black patch along mandibles
- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Blue Morph | White Morph |
| • Throat white | • Entirely white plumage |
| • White-edged scapulars | • Black primaries |

Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*)

LEGEND

- Year Round
- Summer (breeding)
- Winter (non-breeding)
- Migration

Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Range data by NatureServe

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*)

7 subspecies

30-43 in. BL
50-68 in. WS

- Medium to large long-necked goose
 - **Black bill, head, and neck**
- **White throat patch extends up to cheek**
- **Brown back, upper wing, and flanks**

Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) – Not Required

4 Subspecies

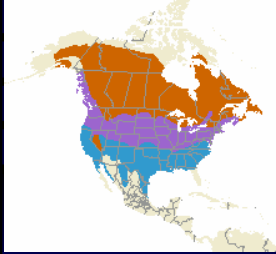
22 - 30 in. BL

- Small to medium long-necked goose
 - **Black bill, head, and neck**
 - **White throat patch extends up to cheek**
 - **Brown back, upper wing, and flanks**

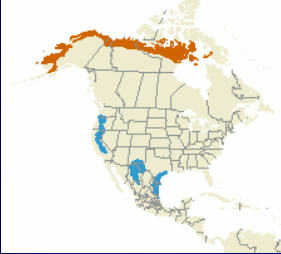
Giant Canada

Cackling Goose






Canada Goose
(*Branta canadensis*)



Cackling Goose
(*B. hutchinsii*)



Subfamily Anatinae

<p>Tribe <i>Cairinini</i></p>  <p>Perching Ducks</p>	<p>Tribe <i>Anatini</i></p>  <p>Dabbling Ducks</p>	<p>Tribe <i>Aythiini</i></p>  <p>Diving Ducks</p>
<p>Tribe <i>Mergini</i></p>  <p>Sea Ducks—Not Covered</p>	<p>Tribe <i>Oxyurini</i></p>  <p>Stiff-tailed Ducks</p>	

Wood Duck
(*Aix sponsa*)

13 in. BL

28 in. WS



Drake

- Red bill and eye
- Green head
- White throat and cheek stripe
- Chestnut breast
- Golden flanks



Hen

- Gray bill
- White teardrop around eye and edge of secondaries
- White throat
- Gray-brown head and body

Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*)

Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Range data by NatureServe

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

16 in. BL36 in. WS

Drake

- Green head
- Yellow or olive bill
- White ring around neck
- Chestnut breast
- Gray belly and flanks

Hen

- Orange bill with black central patch
- Dark cap and eye line
- Mottled brown/tan plumage

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Range data by NatureServe

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*)

16 in. BL (Anas rubripes) 36 in. WS



Drake

- Dark brown head
- Dark blue speculum bordered by white
- Greenish-yellow
- Bright red



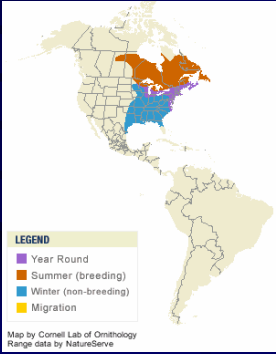
Hen

- Brown head & body
- Blue speculum not bordered by white
- All with black saddle
- Orange legs

"A Forest Duck"



American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*)



LEGEND

- Year Round
- Summer (breeding)
- Winter (non-breeding)
- Migration

Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Range data by NatureServe

American Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca carolinensis*)



Drake

- Rust colored head with green post-ocular patch
- Black bill



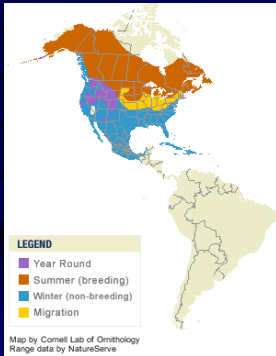
Hen

- Light brown head and body
- Dark gray bill

10.5 in. BL • Very small-bodied duck 24 in. WS

"The fastest duck in NA"

American Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca carolinensis*)



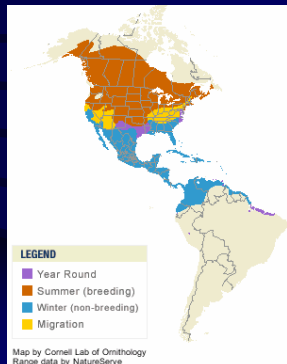
Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*)



11 in. BL • Very small-bodied duck 24 in. WS


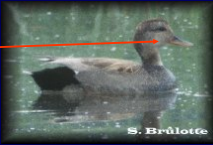
- Green speculum BUT blue in lesser and middle coverts
- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <u>Drake</u> | <u>Hen</u> |
| • Blue-iridescent head | • Light brown head |
| • White crescent patch | • Dark brown crown |
| • Buff breast & flanks w/ spots | • Mottled gray-brown body |

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*)



Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)

14.5 in. BL 35 in. WS

- Average-sized duck with steep forehead
- White speculum (*only dabbler*) and black rump

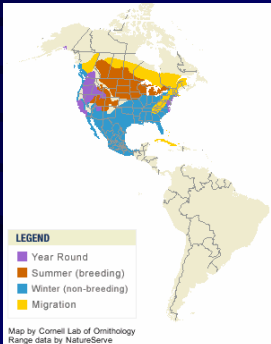
Drake

- **Black bill**

Hen

- **Gray bill with orange edges**



Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)



Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Range data by NatureServe

American Wigeon (*Anas americana*)

14 in. BL 34 in. WS

- **Blue bill with black nail**
- White secondary coverts (grayer in females)

Drake

- **White crown**
- **Green post-ocular stripe**
- **Rusty breast and flanks**

Hen

- **Mottled body w/rusty flanks contrasting w/ head & neck**
- **Dusky eye patch**

American Wigeon (*Anas americana*)

LEGEND

- Year Round
- Summer (breeding)
- Winter (non-breeding)
- Migration

Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Range data by NatureServe

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*)

18.5 in. BL 35 in. WS

- Dull blue bill with black culmen stripe
- Very long neck, small head and attenuated retrices

Drake

- Dark brown head
- White chest & neck extending into vertical stripe

Hen

- Tan head lightly colored
- mottled body
- Bronze speculum

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*)


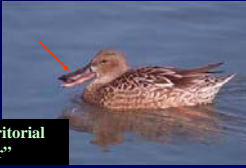
LEGEND

- Year Round
- Summer (breeding)
- Winter (non-breeding)
- Migration

Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Range data by NatureServe

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)

14 in. BL 31 in. WS

"A very territorial breeder"

- Spatulate bill

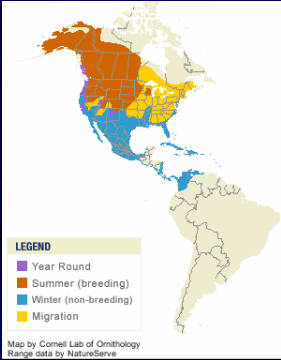
Drake

- Black bill
- Green head and yellow eyes
- White chest & chestnut sides

Hen

- Orange bill with mottling
- Tan head and brown eyes
- Mottled brown body

Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)



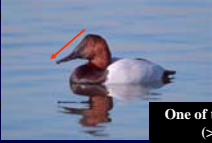

LEGEND

- Year Round
- Summer (breeding)
- Winter (non-breeding)
- Migration

Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Range data by NatureServe

Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*)

15 in. BL 34 in. WS

One of the fastest ducks
(>100 km/h)

- Long sloping forehead and peaked crown
- Black bill

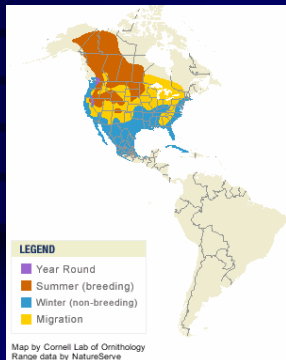
Drake

- Red eye, head, and neck
- Black chest and breast
- Pale gray back & flanks

Hen

- Brown eye, head, and neck
- Brown chest and breast
- Pale gray back and flanks

Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*)



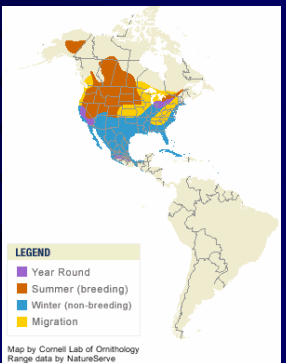
Redhead (*Aythya americana*)



14.5 in. BL
33 in. WS



- Smoothly rounded head
 - Dark wing with grayish secondaries
- | | |
|--|---|
| <u>Drake</u> | <u>Hen</u> |
| • Red head & neck; yellow eye! | • Brown eye, head, and neck |
| • Blue bill w/ white ring before black tip | • Blue-gray bill w/ faint white ring before black tip |

Redhead (*Aythya americana*)



Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*)

12 in. BL 28 in. WS

- Bill with white semi-terminal ring
- White/cream-colored ring at base of bill

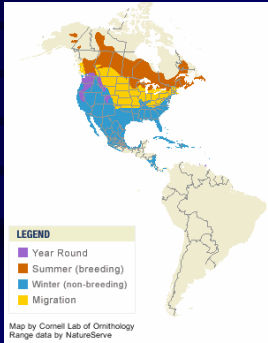
Drake

- Purple head & neck; yellow eye
- Gray flanks with vertical white finger near black chest

Hen

- Brown eye, head, and neck
- Faint white eye ring


Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*)



Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Range data by NatureServe

Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*)

12 in. BL 29 in. WS




Transcontinental

- Purplish head
- White on wing restricted to speculum
- Body size

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*)

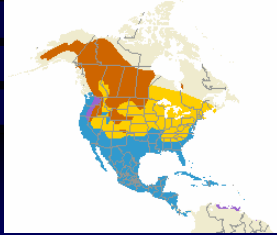
13 in. BL 31 in. WS



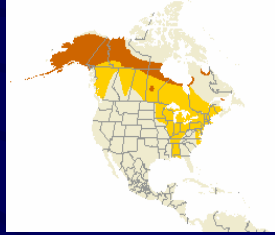
Coastal Areas

- Greenish head
- White on speculum extends to primaries
- Body size

Lesser Scaup
(*Aythya affinis*)



Greater Scaup
(*Aythya marila*)



Common Goldeneye
(*Bucephala clangula*)

13 in. BL

31 in. WS



Transcontinental



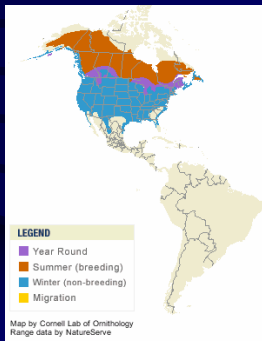
- Short, stubby bill
- Body rides low in water

Drake

Hen


- Green head & neck; yellow eye
- White circular cheek patch
- All white chest, breast, flanks
- Reddish-brown head
- Terminus of bill light colored
- Gray body

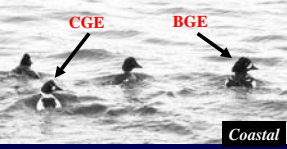
Common Goldeneye
(*Bucephala clangula*)



Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)

13 in. BL
31 in. WS

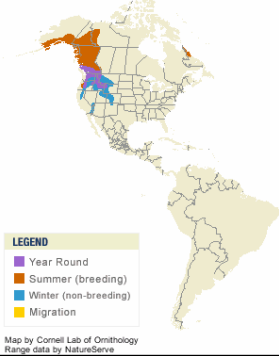




“The most territorial of NA ducks”

- Steeply sloped forehead
- Purplish head and large crest
- White tear-drop shaped cheek patch
- White neck, breast and belly
 - Dark back

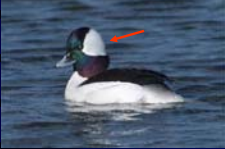
Barrow's Goldeneye (*Bucephala islandica*)




Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Range data by NatureServe

Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*)

10 in. BL





24 in. WS

- “Smallest duck in North America”
- Very small dark gray bill

Drake

- Dark iridescent head
- Large white patch extending from back of head to eye
- White body

Hen

- Dull brown head
- White longitudinal stripe on cheek
- Brown body

Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*)

LEGEND

- Year Round
- Summer (breeding)
- Winter (non-breeding)
- Migration

Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Range data by NatureServe

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*)

13 in. BL 26 in. WS

Drake **Hen**

- Long, pointed serrated bill
- Fan-like crest, small body, yellow eye
- Black forehead, cheek, & crest
- White cheek/crest patch not extending to eye
- Brown head, neck, flanks, back, and wings w/ paler breast
- Faint reddish tinge to crest

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*)



LEGEND

- Year Round
- Summer (breeding)
- Winter (non-breeding)
- Migration

Map by Cornell Lab of O
Data by NatureServe.

Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*)

18 in. BL (Mergus merganser) 37 in. WS

• Long, pointed serrated bill that is thick at base

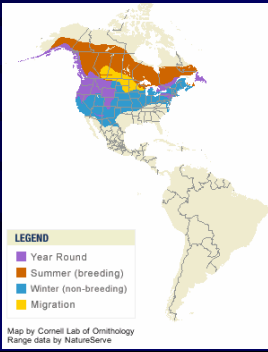
Drake

- Dark green head with no crest
- White body and black back

Hen

- Copper-colored head with crisp chest separation
- Distinct white chin patch



Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*)



Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Range data by NatureServe

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

11 in. BL (Oxyura jamaicensis) 23 in. WS

Can move through water-waveless

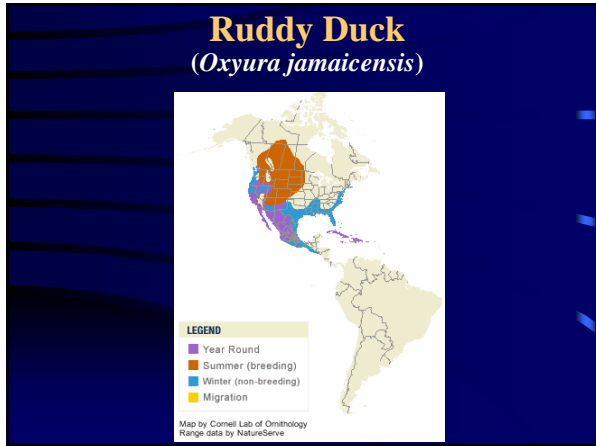
- Small, chunky diving duck with flat, wide bill
- Long stiff retrices that are often held vertically

Drake

- Bright blue bill
- Rust colored body
- White cheek & under tail coverts

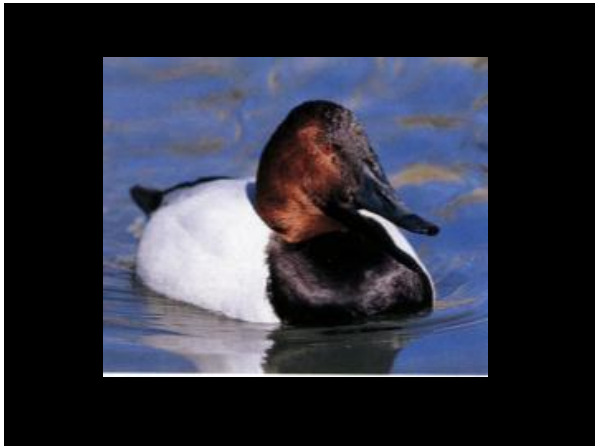
Hen

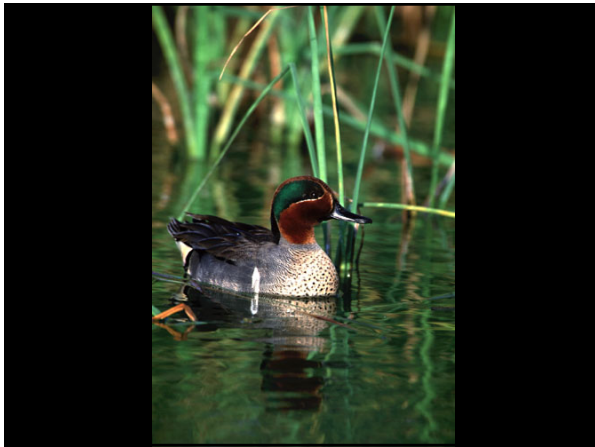
- Dull brown bill
- Dusky longitudinal cheek stripe
- Gray-brown body



Practice Quiz





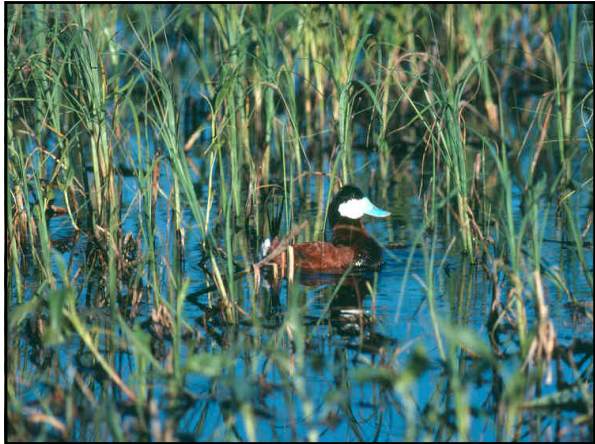










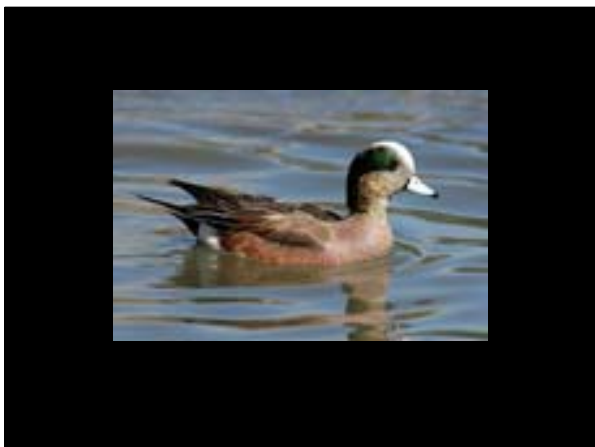
















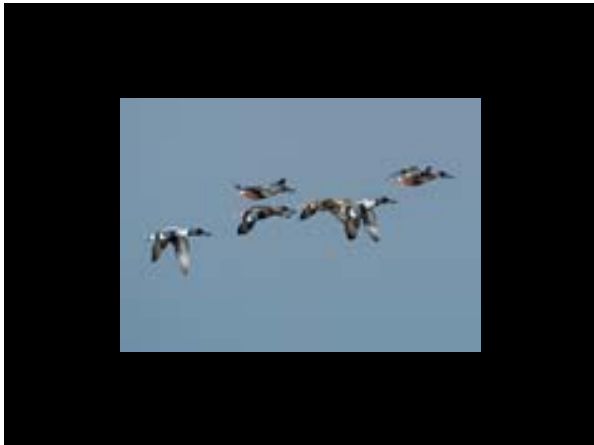




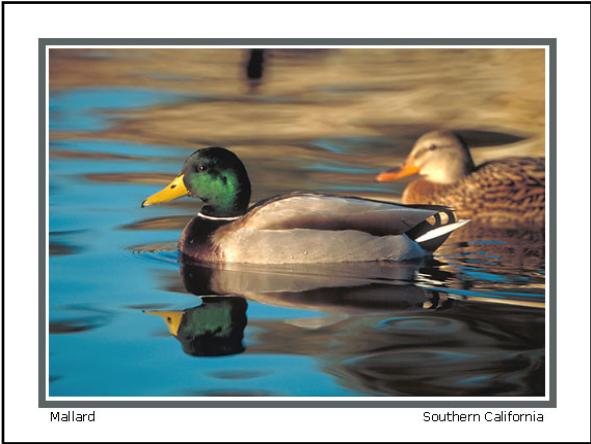












Mallard

Southern California