

Mallard Duck



Photo credit Xromm.org

The Mallard Duck is one of the most abundant birds in North America and the Northern hemisphere. They are waterfowl and are mostly found near water, but are also content in eating food given out by humans.

Description

Size and Shape- The Mallard is a large duck with a round head, long bills, and big webbed feet.

Color Pattern- Males have a green and black head, yellow beak, dark brown chest, black and white body, a patch of blue on the wings, and orange feet. Females are spotted white and dark brown with a patch of blue on the wings and orange feet.

Behavior- Mallards are dabbling ducks and feed by dipping their head into the water but rarely dive. They are usually very tolerant with humans.

Song- Loud quacks and cackles

Habitat- Found in any wetland habitat such as marshes, lakes, rivers, and almost anywhere where there is open water.

Range- Abundant just about anywhere in the US. Migrate to Canada and Alaska for breeding season.

Diet- Omnivorous—Mostly eat aquatic vegetation and seeds. Eat aquatic invertebrates during breeding season. Will eat anything given out to them by humans.

Anas platyrhynchos



Photo credit: Enrico Primo

Bird Statistics

Scientific name- *Anas platyrhynchos*

Family- Anatidae

Conservation Status- Least concern

Length- 19.7-25.6 in (50-65 cm)

Wingspan- 32.3-37.4 in (82-95 cm)

Weight- 35.3-45.9 oz (1000-1300 g)

Egg Statistics

Color- Pure creamy or greenish

Nest- Shallow depression in moist earth with vegetation

Clutch size- 1-13 eggs

Number of broods- 1-2

Length- 2.1-2.5 in (5.3-6.4 cm)

Width- 1.5-1.8 in (3.9-4.5 cm)

Incubation period- 23-30 days

Nestling period- 13-16 hours

Additional Information

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/birds/mallard-duck/>

<http://www.ducks.org/hunting/waterfowl-id/mallard#ad-image-0>

<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Mallard/id>