

[Wigeons](#) make a distinctive whistling sound. Listen out for it if you see large, mixed flocks of ducks.

"Divers" - propel themselves underwater with large feet attached to short legs situated far back on the body.

- Canvasback, Redhead, Ring Necked, Scaups, Ruddy, Wigeon

"Dabblers" have smaller feet and their legs are situated farther forward. A few may occasionally dive to feed or to escape predators, typically they skim food from the surface or feed in the shallows by tipping forward to submerge their heads and necks.

- Mallards, Teal, Shovelers, Wigeon

We have also listed a substantial group of species that dive after their food, but often are not meant when one refers to divers. Note that many of the ducks that dive also dabble. Although the Wood Duck (not listed) dabbles and shares with the dabblers the ability to take-off vertically, it is not ordinarily included in the dabblers.

DUCKS THAT DIVE

(But that are not usually
referred to as "Divers"; often
called "Sea Ducks")

American Black Duck

Eiders (*Somateria*, *Polysticta*)

Scoters (*Melanitta*)

Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus*)

Oldsquaw (*Clangula*)

Goldeneyes (*Bucephala*)

Bufflehead (*Bucephala*)

Mergansers (*Mergus*, *Lophodytes*)

CANVASBACK



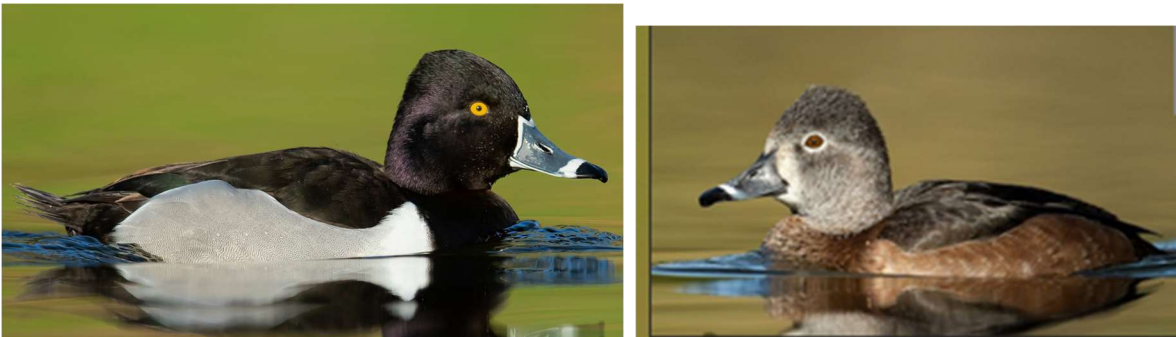
GOLDENEYE



GREEN WINGED TEAL



RING-NECKED DUCK



GADWALL



Male

Males are intricately patterned with gray, brown, and black. Note the black rump patch.

WIDGEON



BLACK DUCK



vs Female Mallard



✓ yellow bill with black tip

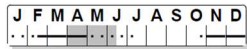
✓ orange & black bill
✓ streak of blue & white wing tip
(*"speculum" – secondary wing feathers*)

MALLARD x BLACK DUCK

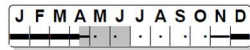


MERGANSERS (Divers)

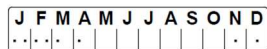
HOODED MEGANSER



COMMON MEGANSER



RED BREASTED MEGANSER



Rare in HV

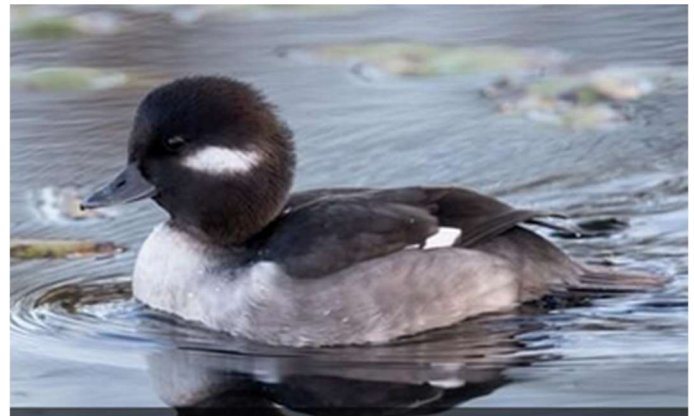
- ♦ Cinnamon body, slender chest
- ♦ White neck

- ♦ No white patch on chin

Ruddy Duck



BUFFLEHEAD



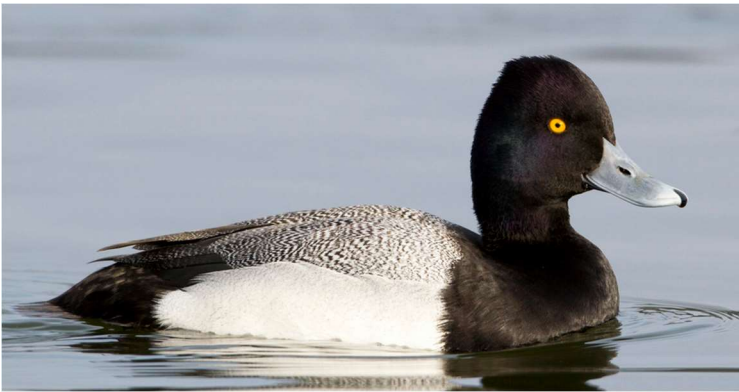
merican Coot



Black Scoter



Lesser Scaup



HORNED GREBE

- ☐ Smaller than Red Necked
- ☐ shorter, darker bill
- ☐ cleaner black & white plumage in winter

RED NECKED GREBE

BREEDING ADULTS



NON- BREEDING ADULTS



IMMATURE



- ☐ Solitary birds in winter
- ☐ Divers!