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| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | Mallard Duck  * Kingdom: Animal * Phylum: Chordata * Class: Aves * Order: Anseriformes * Family: Anatidae * Genus: Anas * Species: platyrhynchos |  | |  | | | General Information:  Mallards are a common sight at the creek. There seems to always be a mating pair present. The males are clearly recognizable with their green head feathers. The females are beige with brown and white highlights. [Hearing them](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/Mallard_dtl.html#sound) while foraging for food or interacting during the mating season is very recognizable. We have witnessed on three different occasions a female with ducklings (lower right). An abandoned duckling was found at the end of the school year in 2000. It was taken home by a student, raised, and then released back into the creek. In the late spring of 2008 we came across a nest that was hidden among the blackberry bushes near site [13](http://docs.google.com/arroyo/site13.html) (lower left). Mallards eat primarily plant material and can be seen browsing on algae and grasses. | | |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | | Copyright © 2008 Amador Valley High. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part in any form or medium without express written permission of Amador Valley is prohibited. | |