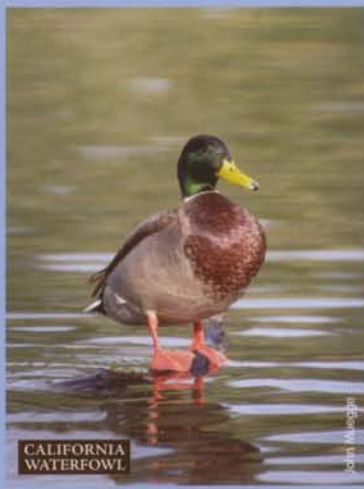


Duck Data and Fowl Facts

Play **Trivia War** with two players. Divide the deck in two. Take turns holding up a card with the picture facing your opponent. Ask questions about the information on the back. If they answer correctly, they get the card. If not, you keep the card. The player who gets all the cards wins. Or, play for five minutes, and the one with the most cards wins.

Play **Wild Ducks** with two decks and two or three players. Deal 8 cards to each player. Make a draw pile with the rest and turn over the top card for a discard pile. Take turns playing a duck with a feature similar to the top discard, calling out the feature (examples: red head, nests in CA, white sides, diver, blue bill). If matching ducks are played, take another turn. If no card can be played, draw one from the deck. The first one out of cards wins.



Northern Pintail

A Dabbling Duck



2 lbs.

Flight: Pintails often fly in flocks of 5 or more in lines or "V" formation. Notice the long neck and tail.

When in California: Some year-round but most during winter, September to March.

Feeding: Pintails eat invertebrates and seeds from the bottom of shallow, open ponds. They also feed in grain fields.

Nesting: They nest on the ground in open, short-grass fields or croplands up to 5 miles from water. Some nest here, but most nest in the vast prairies of Canada and north states or in the Alaskan tundra.

Wood Duck

A Perching Duck



1 1/4 lbs.

Flight: In the open, their flight is fast and direct. Their long tails help them maneuver when flying among trees.

When in California: Year-round.

Feeding: They eat acorns and farmed foods such as rice, olives, and grapes. They also eat seeds and invertebrates from slow-moving waters.

Nesting: Nests of down are made in debris-filled tree cavities or man-made nest boxes in and around forested waterways.

Mallard

A Dabbling Duck



2 1/2 lbs.

Flight: Mallards often stay in pairs or small groups and migrate in large flocks. Notice their green head and large size.

When in California: Year-round. Mallards are common nesting ducks in California.

Feeding: Mallards feed on farm crops when available. They also sift through mud on the bottom of shallow ponds for seeds and invertebrates.

Nesting: Down-filled nests are made on the ground, hidden in dense stands of grasses and leafy plants. They can be up to a mile from water.



The California Waterfowl Association works to conserve the state's waterfowl, wetlands, and outdoor heritage through studies, habitat restoration, government action, and education. CWA programs help people become stewards of our waterfowl and wetland resources. Visit us online at www.calwaterfowl.org

Ruddy Duck

A Stiff-tailed Diving Duck



1 1/4 lbs.

Flight: Ruddies are swift, and often fly close to the water. They rest in tight groups on open water, often with coots. Notice the black and white head color.

When in California: Most are here in winter but some stay year-round to nest.

Feeding: During the day, ruddies dive underwater for invertebrates, pondweeds, and seeds. At night, they eat small insects from the water's surface.

Nesting: Ruddies make a basket-like nest over water, hidden among bulrushes and cattails.

Lesser Scaup

A Diving Duck



1 3/4 lbs.

Flight: Scaup fly low in very fast, large flocks, often over 100 birds. They are seen on large, open ponds and coastal bays. Notice their gray back and light/dark contrast.

When in California: Winter, November to February.

Feeding: Scaup dive underwater for insects, small organisms, and plants.

Nesting: A feathery nest is made on dry ground usually in grassy meadows near ponds in open prairies. Scaup also nest in boreal forest marshes and tundras.

Canvasback

A Diving Duck



2 3/4 lbs.

Flight: The fastest waterfowl, these ducks fly low and straight in large flocks. In winter, flocks gather on deep ponds and bays. Notice the white body, dark breast, and red head.

When in California: Most are here for winter, November to February. A few nest in Northern California marshes.

Feeding: Canvasbacks dive deep underwater to eat plants, seeds, and sometimes insects, clams, and fish.

Nesting: Nests of reeds and down are built over water among cattails, bulrushes, and other tall wetland plants.

Cinnamon Teal

A Dabbling Duck



1 lb.

Flight: Cinnamon teal fly low, in small, compact weaving flocks. Notice their dark body and the blue on the wing.

When in California: Year-round. In winter, they often hide in marshes with plenty of cattails and tules.

Feeding: Cinnamon teal feed in shallow water, using their bill to strain for invertebrates, plants, and seeds.

Nesting: They build a feathery nest on high ground in fairly dense, grass-covered fields close to shallow water.

Green-winged Teal

A Dabbling Duck



3/4 lb.

Flight: They fly low in small, tight flocks of 10 to 50 birds. Watch for erratic, twisting moves often involving the whole flock.

When in California: During winter, September to March.

Feeding: Green-wings sift through mud and very shallow water searching for small seeds, plant material, and invertebrates.

Nesting: These teal make nests of grasses and feathers on the ground. They nest far north in aspen parklands and in boreal forest wetlands.

Northern Shoveler

A Dabbling Duck



1 1/4 lbs.

Flight: Their flight is swift and erratic. They dart up and down over the wetlands. Notice their very large bill and blue on the wing.

When in California: Most are here for the winter, October to March. A few nest in California in the spring.

Feeding: They filter through water for brine shrimp, insects, and other invertebrates. They also eat small seeds.

Nesting: Well-hidden nests of grasses and down are made on high ground in fairly thick cover. Most nest in the prairies of Canada and the Northern States.

American Wigeon

A Dabbling Duck



1 1/2 lbs.

Flight: Wigeon often fly in small groups of 5 to 20 birds. Notice the white patch on their wings.

When in California: Winter, from October to April.

Feeding: Wigeon are known for grazing. They often join flocks of geese feeding on newly growing grass and alfalfa. They also eat underwater plants and invertebrates in shallow marshes.

Nesting: Wigeon nest on the ground in tall grasses, often near woods. Nests are of dried grasses, small leaves, and down.

Redhead

A Diving Duck



2 1/4 lbs.

Flight: Redhead flight is direct. Notice the light-dark contrast and red head when identifying these ducks in flight.

When in California: Year-round.

Feeding: Redheads dive for roots and bulbs of underwater plants. They sometimes wait at the surface to steal food from others.

Nesting: Redheads nest over water among the reeds bordering shallow ponds. A deep cup is lined with plants and their distinctive light down. They regularly lay eggs in other duck nests.

Gadwall

A Dabbling Duck



2 lbs.

Flight: Gadwalls spring into the air and fly swiftly, in pairs or small flocks. See white on the wing and listen for a nasal "nick" call.

When in California: Most common from October to February, but some are here year-round.

Feeding: They pick algae and other food from the surface of shallow ponds and marshes. They also eat grain in open fields.

Nesting: Gadwalls nest in thick stands of leafy plants on dry ground. Nests are a hollow lined with plant material and down.

Ring-necked Duck

A Diving Duck



1 1/2 lbs.

Flight: Their flight is more erratic and twisting than other diving ducks. Notice their black back and gray sides.

When in California: Mostly in winter, from October to February, and usually in freshwater ponds and marshes.

Feeding: They feed in water 2-3 feet deep, but can also dive in deeper water, seeking small fish, tadpoles, snails, flies, or plants.

Nesting: A hollow on the ground is lined with plants and down. In damp areas, nests are built up among tall plants.

Common Goldeneye

A Diving Duck



2 lbs.

Flight: Goldeneyes fly in pairs and small groups. Notice their long black and white wings that make a loud whistling sound.

When in California: Winter, from October to March.

Feeding: These ducks dive underwater for insects, crayfish, fish, and plants. In saltwater they also eat tiny crabs and other animals.

Nesting: Goldeneyes nest in tree cavities near ponds or lakes. Nests are made of twigs and debris in the cavity and lined with down.

Bufflehead

A Diving Duck



3/4 lb.

Flight: Buffleheads fly low in small flocks and have quick wingbeats. Notice white on the wing and head of these tiny ducks.

When in California: Mostly in winter. Among the last ducks to leave in spring, a few stay to nest by mountain lakes.

Feeding: Buffleheads dive for small fish and probe the muddy bottom for snails or seeds. They dabble for surface insects.

Nesting: These small ducks nest in tree cavities that are 2-10 feet above ground. Nests are lined with down.