

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

Description

The Mallard is a medium to large sized duck (weight: 1800 g or 64 oz, length: 58 cm or 23", wingspan 109-122 cm or 43-48"). The male's brilliant green head and neck, white collar and chestnut breast are designed to attract female attention. He has a yellow bill, and orange legs and webbed feet. Two curled black tail feathers peak out between his closed wings above his white tail. The female's colouring is mottled brown with an orange-brown bill and orange legs and feet, such that she blends in with plants so that she does not attract attention when she is on a nest. She has a distinctive purple wing patch bordered by white bars. Mallards are very adaptable and are commonly seen in urban areas. Many migrate south for the winter, but there is a good-size overwintering population in Calgary. Mallards are said to be the ancestors of all domestic ducks (except the Muscovy)



FUN FACTS



- Mallards are dabbling ducks tipping up-side down in the water while they nibble on plants below the surface.
- Mallards' preferred habitat is grasslands that surround wetlands where they can hide in plants while moulting.
- The female Mallard has a loud quacking voice while the males quack is softer and higher pitched.
- Mallards have a distinctive flight with constant, strong wingbeats.




If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal in distress, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at **403-214-1312** for tips, instructions and advice, or visit the website for more information www.calgarywildlife.org



Contact Us

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