Mallard

Male characteristics
-metallic green head and neck
-narrow white collar
-greenish-yellow bill with black tip
-chestnut breast
-blue / purple speculum with white edging
-bright orange legs and feet

Female characteristics
-mottled brown head and body
-orange bill with spots or blotches
-bright orange legs and feet

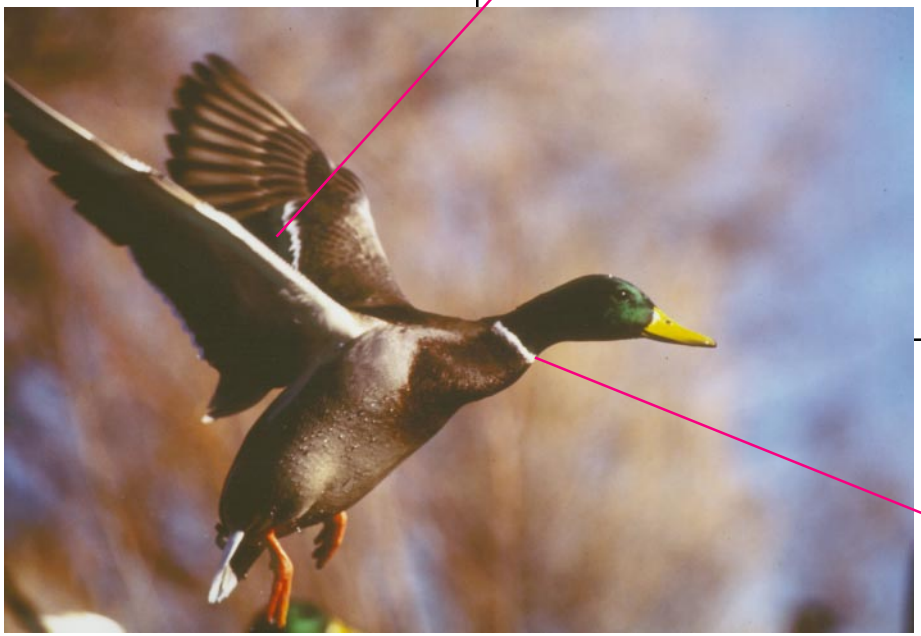
♀ Female

♂ Male

Photo: John Muegge

Photo: John Muegge

Blue speculum



Narrow white collar

Mallards are often seen in shallow freshwater ponds, lakes, streams, and swamps.

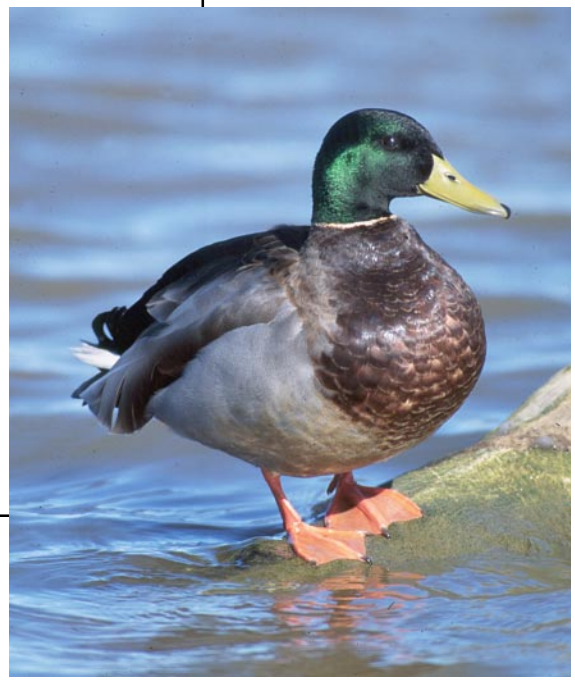


Photo: John Muegge

Canvasback

Male characteristics
-cinnamon head and neck
-red eye with black pupil
-long, sloping black bill
-black breast with white body
-gray legs and feet
-short, narrow black tail

Female characteristics
-brown head
-pale gray-brown body
-long, sloping black bill
-black eye

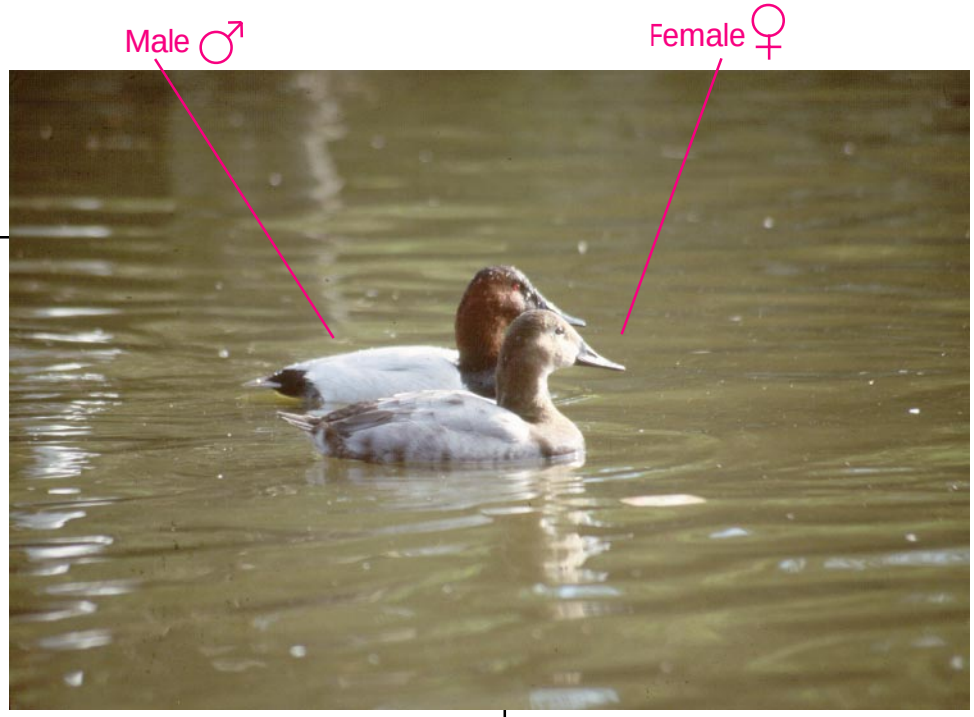
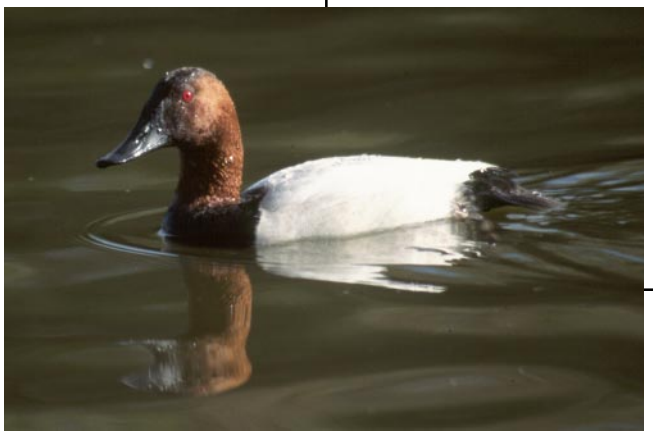


Photo: Stan Ray

Photo: John Muegge



Canvasbacks are found in deep freshwater marshes and rivers.

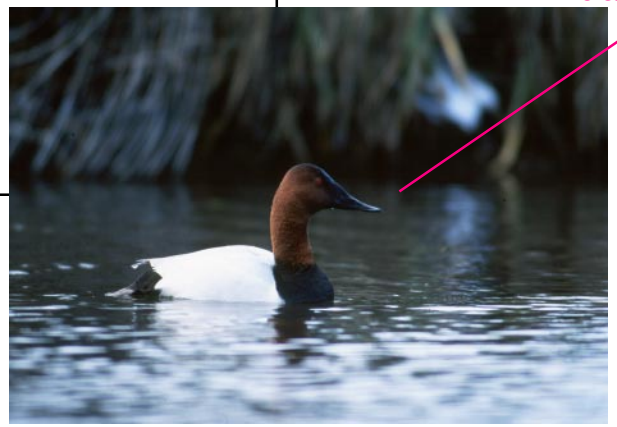
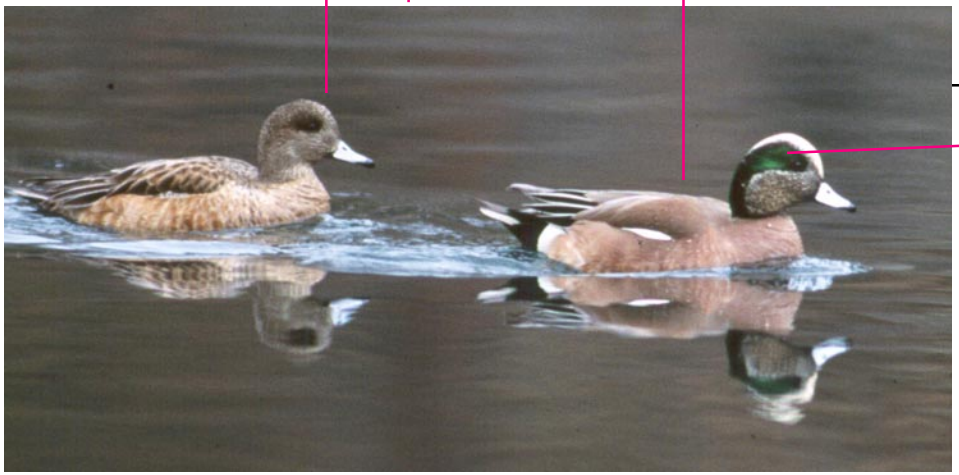


Photo: John Muegge

American Wigeon

Photo: John Muegge



American wigeons are found in marshes and freshwater areas with exposed shoreline, lakes, and islands.

Male characteristics
-white forehead with green eye stripe
-brownish cheek
-light cinnamon body
-bluish bill with black tip
-white and green patches on the wing
-black and white tail feathers
-gray feet and legs

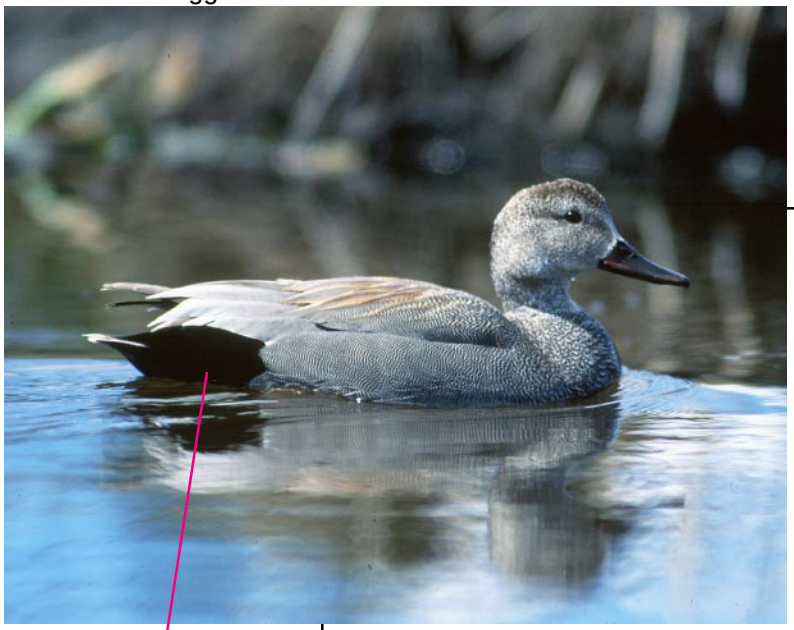
Female characteristics
-grayish head with light cinnamon body
-dark patch around the eye
-bluish bill with black tip
-bluish gray feet and legs

White forehead with green eye stripe

Photo: Frank S. Todd

Gadwall

Photo: John Muegge



Black rump

Gadwalls live in marshes, ponds, and lakes. They often use islands for nesting.

Male characteristics
-high forehead
-intricate patterns of gray on the flanks, chest, back, and head
-black bill
-white belly
-black rump
-white, black, and chestnut patches on the wing

Female characteristics
-orange bill with black spots and blotches
-grayish head with brown and tan body
-yellow legs and feet
-white belly

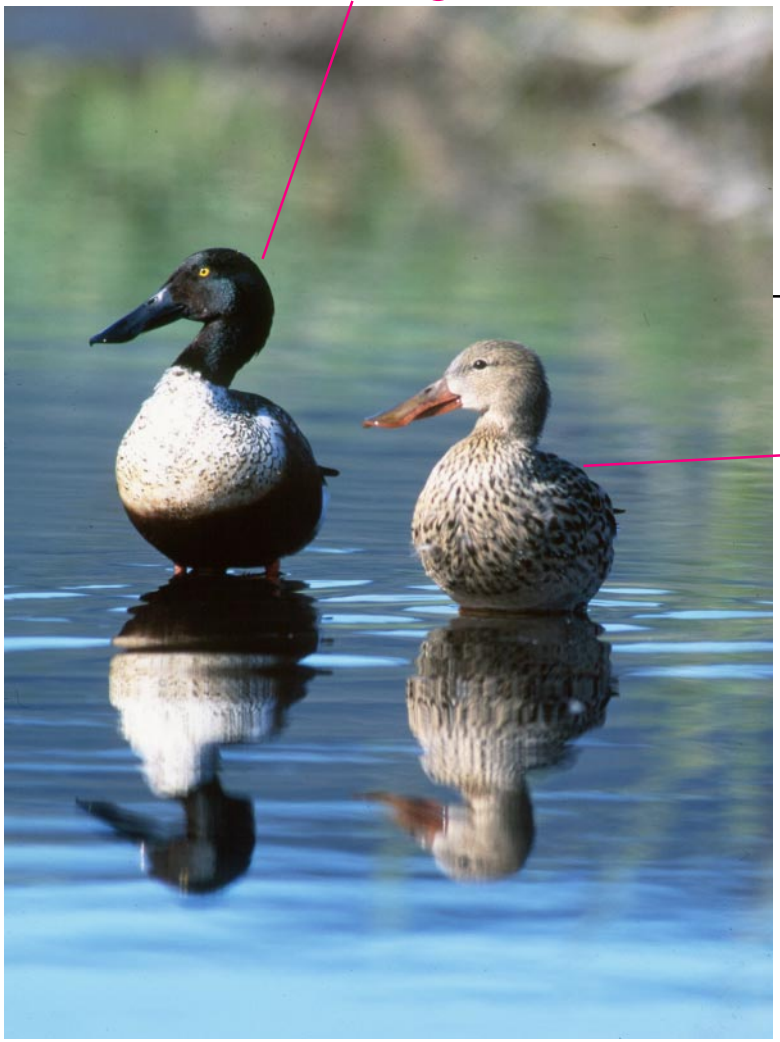
Photo: Frank S. Todd

Male ♂

Female ♀

Northern Shoveler

Photo: John Muegge



Northern shovelers inhabit both deep and shallow waters and prairie meadows.

Male characteristics
-green head and neck
-yellow eye with black pupil
-large black spoon-shaped bill
-white breast with brownish red flanks
-pale blue, white, and green patches on the wing
-short, orange legs and feet

Female characteristics
-pale brown head and body
-large orange spoon-shaped bill
-orange legs and feet

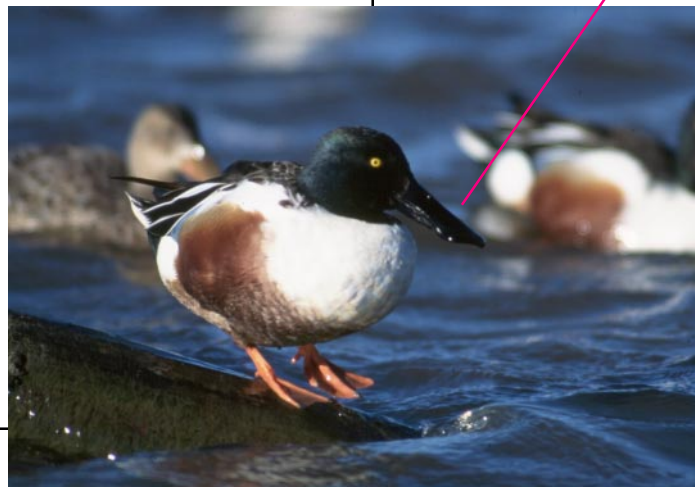



Photo: John Muegge