



MALLARD (MEXICAN DUCK)

Anas platyrhynchos diazi



The Mexican duck is a large dabbling duck with a dark appearance that is similar to the mottled duck or the female mallard. Its head and neck have distinct streaking. The bill of the male is yellow to greenish yellow; the female's bill is orange with black spots or blotches. The feet are orange to reddish orange and the wings have a purplish blue to greenish blue speculum bordered with black and white bars on the leading and trailing edges. There is a white bar on the leading edge of the wing that is sometimes indistinct. The female vocalizes with a loud *quack*, while the male uses a low raspy *rink*. The Mexican duck was formerly considered a separate species, but hybridization with the closely related mallard indicates that they are all of one biological species.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

WINGSPAN

The Mexican duck has an average wingspan of 35 inches.

WEIGHT

The Mexican duck averages between a pound and a half to three pounds in weight.

FOOD HABITS

The Mexican duck eats a variety of aquatic vegetation, small fish, and macroinvertebrates.

HABITAT

The Mexican duck is found in a variety of shallow-water marsh habitats.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

In the United States, the Mexican duck is restricted to the Trans-Pecos of Texas, Western New Mexico, and Eastern Arizona.

FUN FACT

Although once considered a separate species, the Mexican duck is now considered to be a subspecies of mallard.