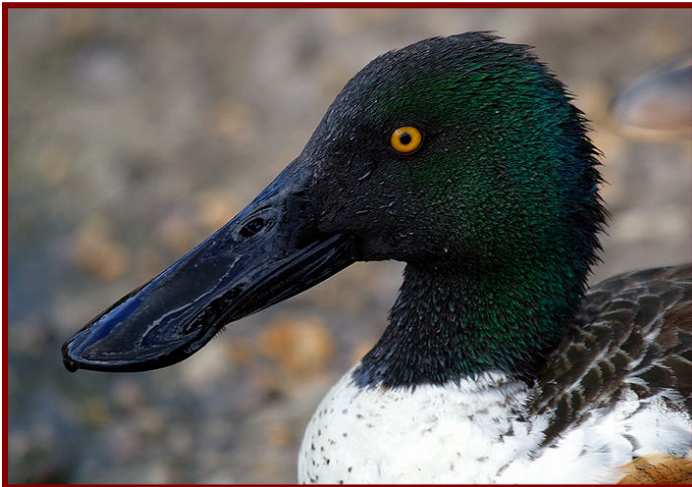




# NORTHERN SHOVELER

*Anas clypeata*



The northern shoveler favors broad, shallow marshes where it can use the comb-like teeth along the edges of its large bill to strain aquatic animals, plants, and seeds from the water. Male shovelers wear eclipse plumage until February, much later than ducks whose courtship begins in the fall. Though less numerous than in historical times, lately the northern shoveler has become relatively abundant because game departments and private organizations in Canada, the United States, and Mexico have purchased wetland habitat to ensure their survival. These ducks have a large, shovel-shaped bill. The male has a green head, white body, and chestnut flanks. The female is streaked brown with pale blue shoulder patches. They are similar to female blue-winged teal but with a larger bill.



## SPECIES QUICK FACTS

### WINGSPAN

The average wingspan of the northern shoveler is approximately 31 inches.

### WEIGHT

The average northern shoveler will weigh about a pound and a half.

### FOOD HABITS

The northern shoveler diet consists of aquatic plants, insects, mollusks, and seeds from the water that it filters with its bill.

### HABITAT

The northern shoveler prefers shallow water marshes and ponds that have ample vegetative cover nearby.

### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The northern shoveler can be found in just about any region of North America for at least a part of the year.

### FUN FACT

Once the incubation process begins, the male shoveler loses interest in the female and his future offspring.