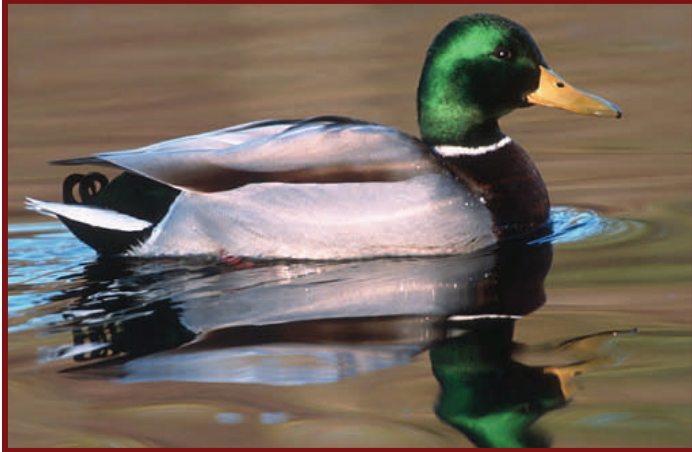


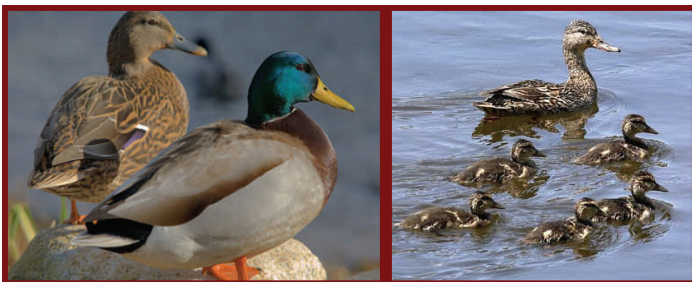


MALLARD

Anas platyrhynchos



Mallards are the most abundant species of duck in North America. The male is brightly colored and has a metallic green head and neck, while the female has drab brown plumage to help in camouflage during the nesting season. Both male and female mallards have a yellow beak and an iridescent blue speculum, which can be seen when they are in flight, on the secondary feathers of their wings. Nests, which are placed on the ground near a body of water, are usually made of aquatic vegetation and are lined with down feathers. Between nine and thirteen eggs are laid per clutch. The mallard is an abundant and important game species in most parts of its range.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The mallard varies from 22 to 26 inches in length.

WINGSPAN

The mallard has a wingspan of 32 to 38 inches.

FOOD HABITS

Mallards eat a variety of foods, including vegetation, aquatic invertebrates, worms, and grains.

HABITAT

The mallard is found wetlands, usually where there is a large amount of emergent vegetation.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The mallard is found throughout most of the United States and Canada. It can also be found in many other areas of the world.

FUN FACT

The mallard can take to flight with out a running start, launching straight up out of the water.