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Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife

*We Bring You Delaware's Great Outdoors
through Science and Service*



GAMEBIRDS OF DELAWARE



GAMEBIRD USE OF PASTURELANDS

UPLAND GAMEBIRDS

PRIMARY HABITAT FOR ANNUAL LIFE CYCLE

- COURTSHIP DISPLAYS
- NESTING
- BROOD REARING
- ESCAPE COVER
 - PREDATORS
 - WEATHER



MIGRATORY BIRDS

MOURNING DOVES

- NESTING
- FEEDING



AMERICAN WOODCOCK

- COURTSHIP DISPLAYS

WATERFOWL

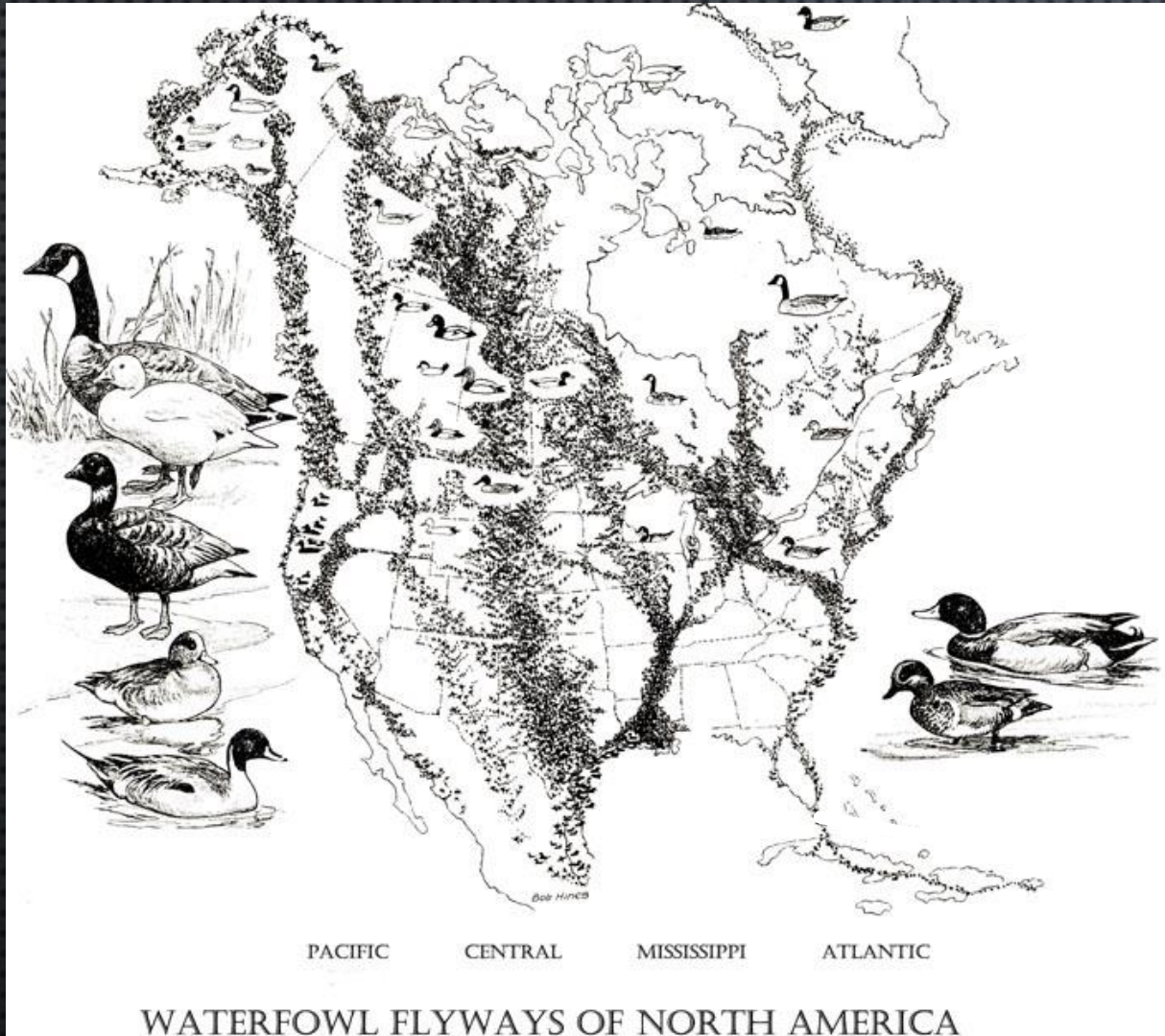
- NESTING
- FEEDING
- LOAFING



WATERFOWL



FLYWAYS



An inset map of the eastern United States and southeastern Canada, highlighted in a light yellow color. It shows the geographical extent of the Atlantic Flyway, from the Gulf of Mexico coast up to the Canadian border. The text 'Atlantic Flyway' is overlaid on the map.

Atlantic Flyway

DETERMINING AGE & SEX

- GENERAL APPEARANCE

- DUCKS, MOST SEXUALLY DIMORPHIC
- GEESE AND SWANS MONOMORPHIC



- FEATHERS

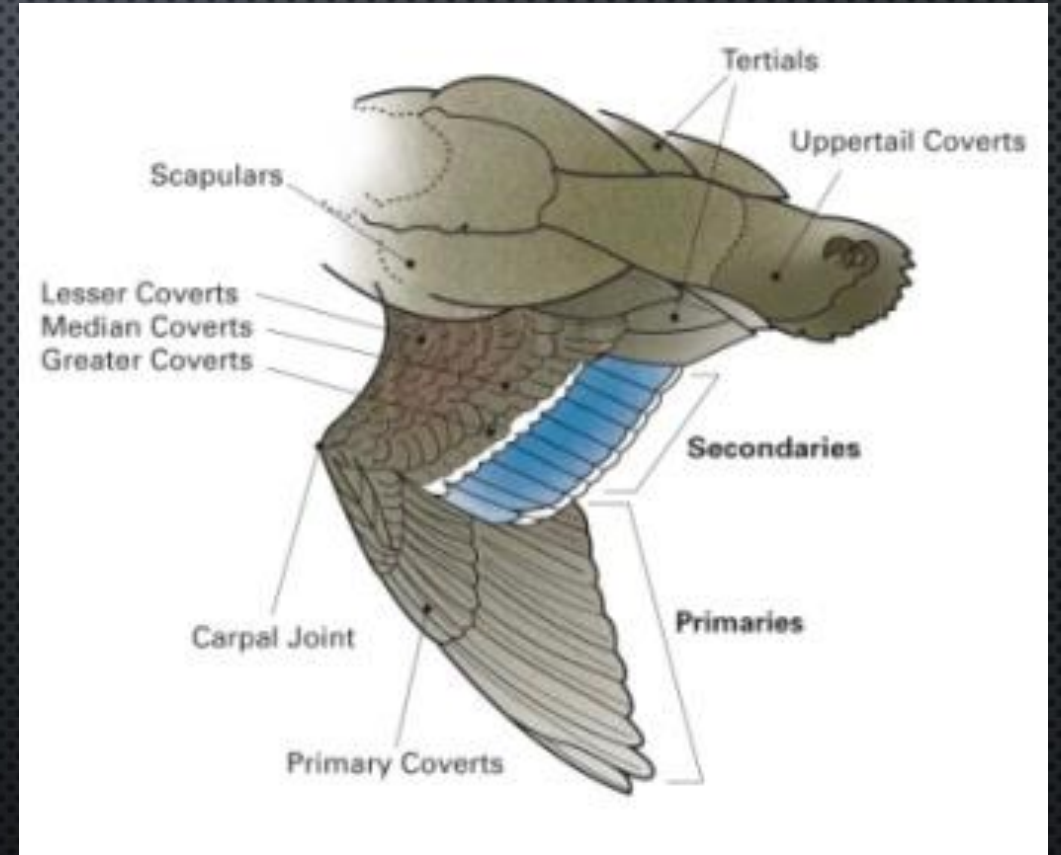
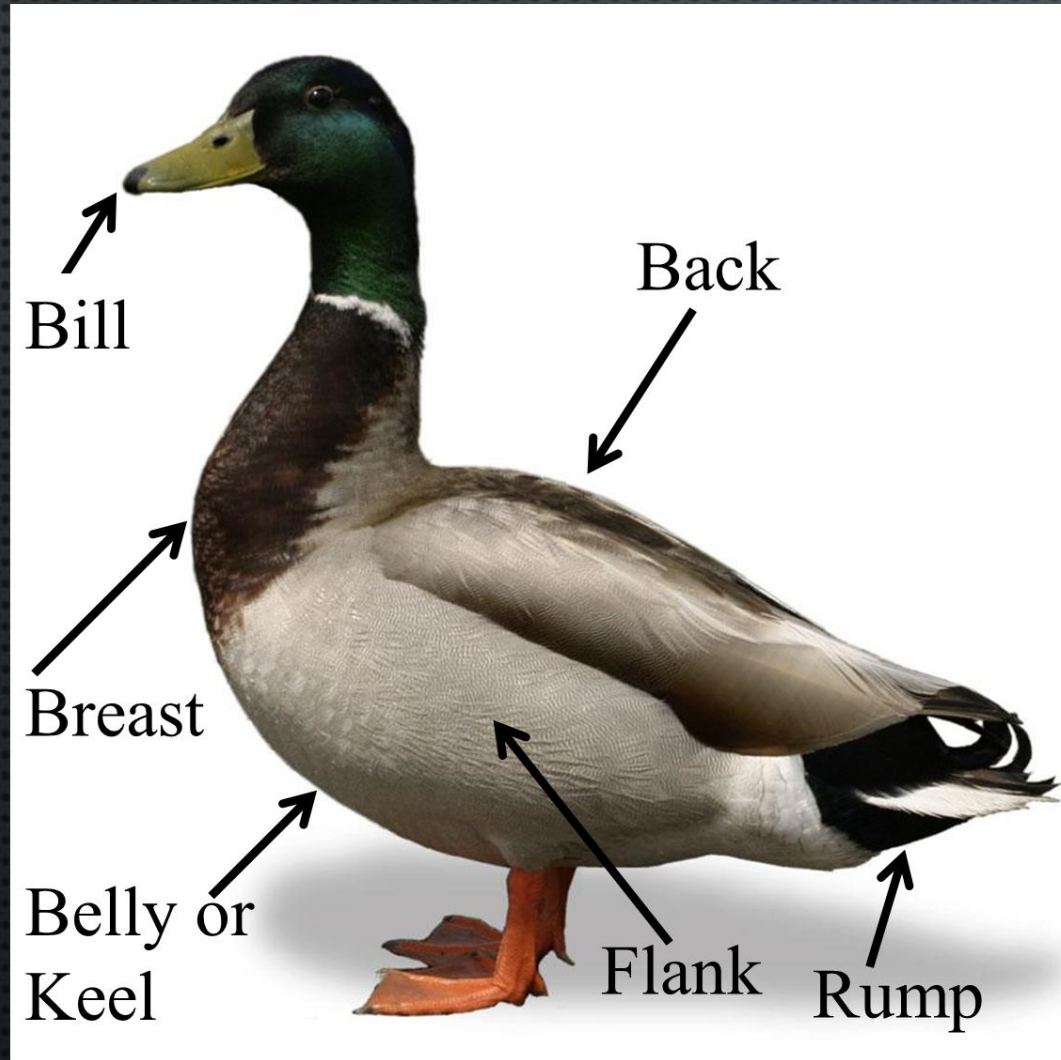
- WING
- KEY BY SAMUEL CARNEY [HTTP://WWW4.NCSU.EDU/~CSDEPERN/DOCUMENTS/WATERFOWLWINGS.PDF](http://www4.ncsu.edu/~csdepern/documents/WATERFOWLWINGS.PDF)
- WINGBEE

- EXAMINATIONS

- CLOACAL EXAM
- INTERNAL EXAM



PARTS OF A DUCK



SWANS





Trumpeter
Endangered (rare)
Red on lower mandible



Tundra
Yellow markings on
the lores



Mute
Orange bill and black
knob on forehead

Submerged Aquatic
Vegetation (SAV) is primary
food source

Adapted to field feeding as
SAVs declined

Eat primarily tubers and
rhizomes

GEESE

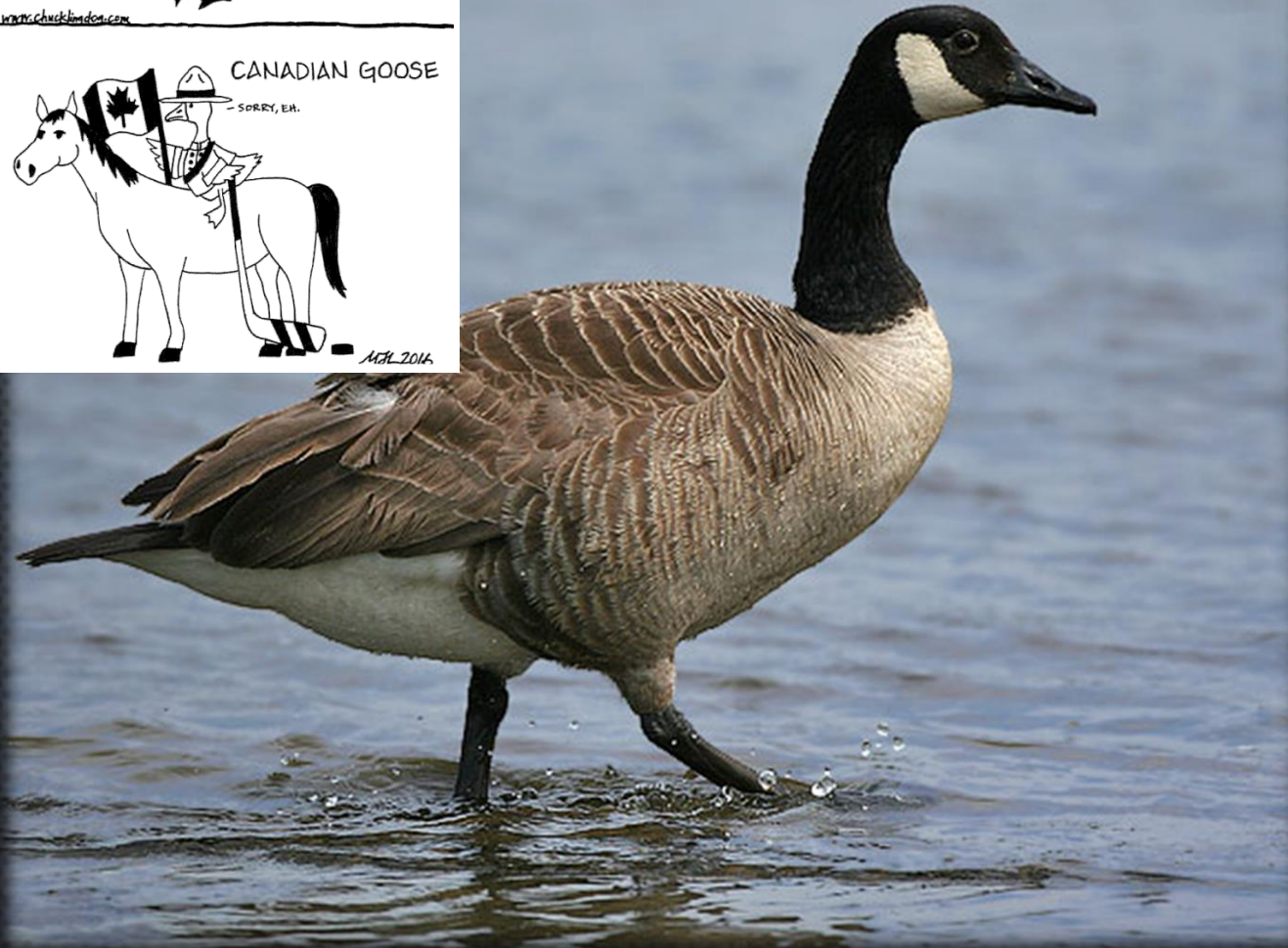


Canada goose

Grazers (think lawnmowers)

Extensive use of Agricultural lands to feed

Resident populations considered a nuisance



Snow goose



Grubbers (pulls out plants)

Extensive use of Agricultural lands to feed

Nuisance species because their populations are overabundant

DUCKS

Dabbling Ducks



Diving Ducks

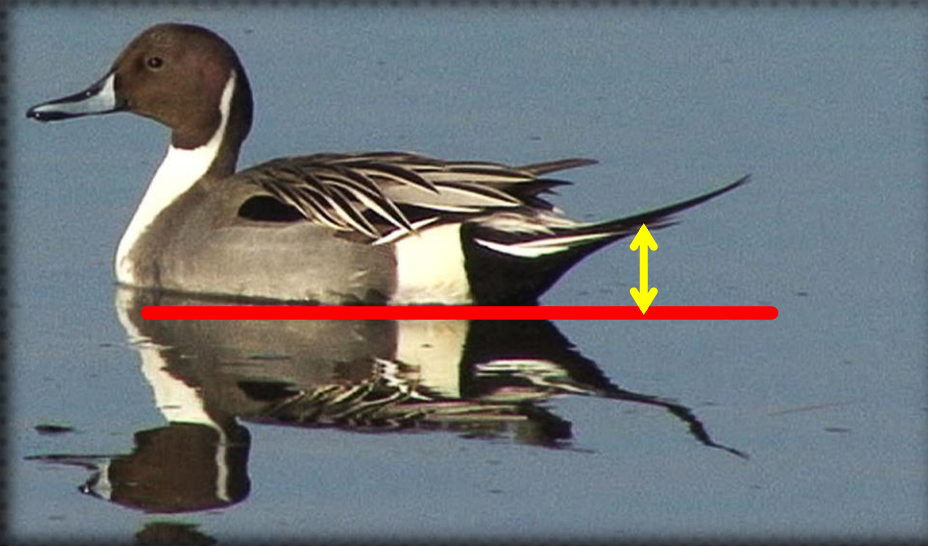


Can anyone guess how either group utilizes pasturelands throughout their annual life cycle?

Dabbling ducks vs. Diving ducks

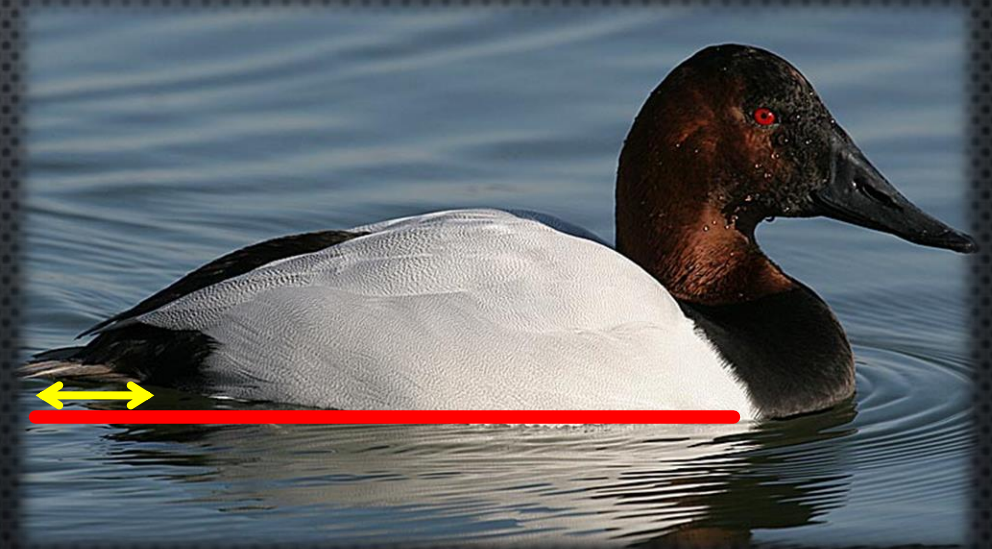
Position while swimming

Dabbling ducks



Tail above water

Diving ducks

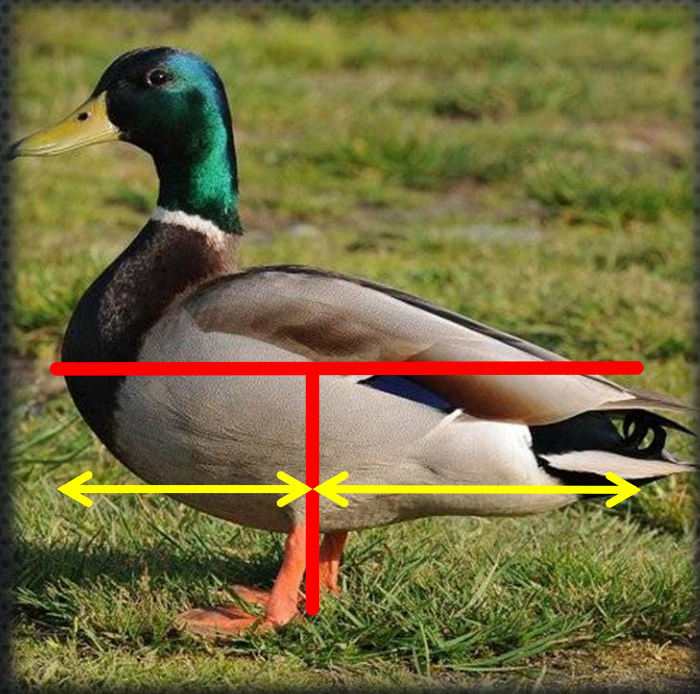


Tail flat with water

Dabbling ducks vs. Diving ducks

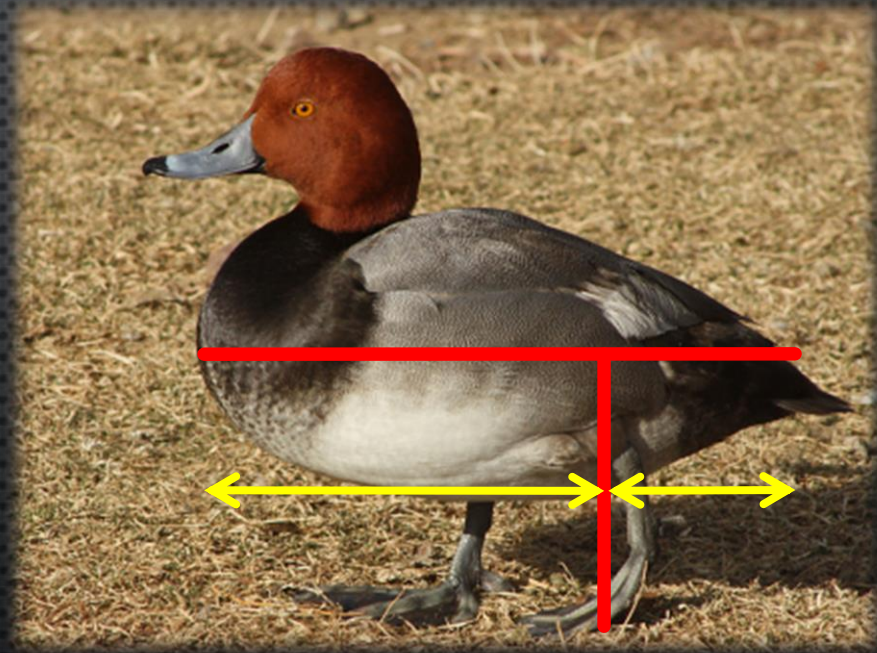
Position while standing

Dabbling ducks



Legs closer to mid-body

Diving ducks



Legs closer to rump

Wood Duck



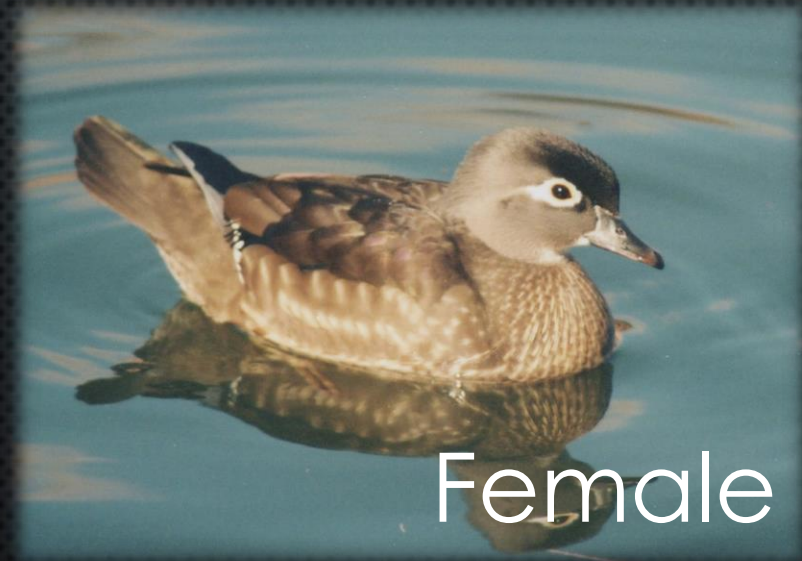
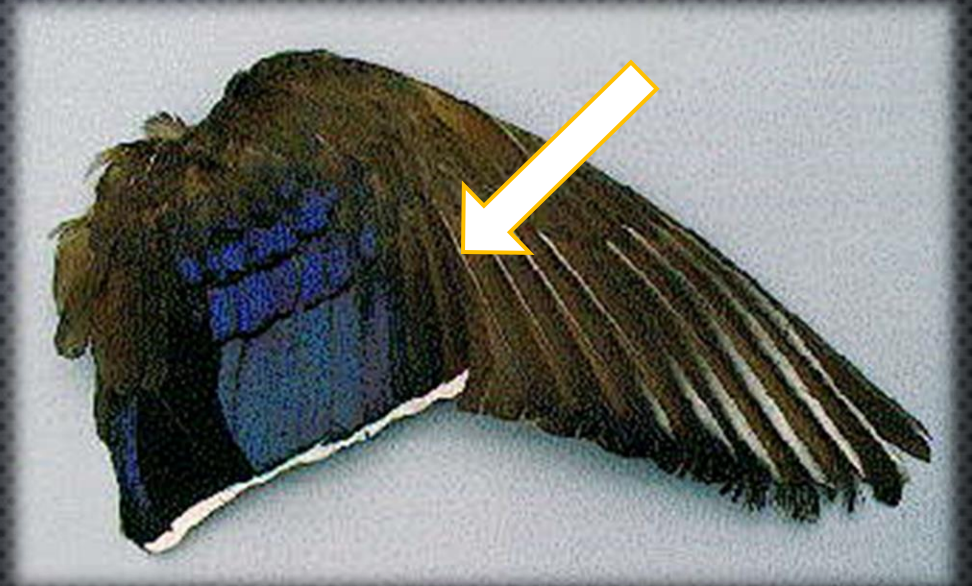
Male

Most colorful
duck species

Straight-line

Dark tertials

Overall blue



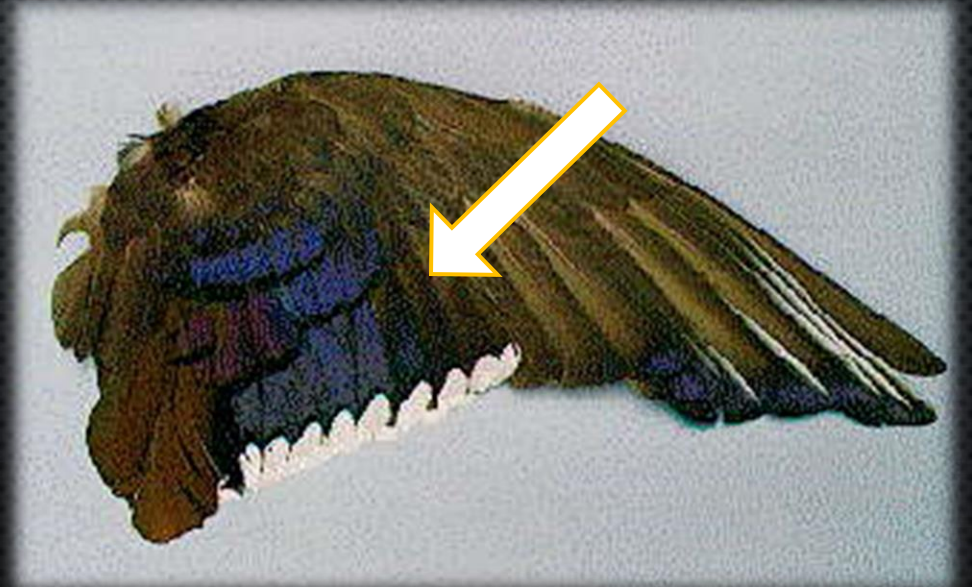
Female

White eye ring

Tear-drop

Red-purple

Colored tertials



Mallard

Male



Green Head,
yellow bill

Gray body, brown
breast

No white in tertials



Female



Orange bill

Brown body

White extends
into tertials



American Black Duck

Male



Monotypic

Bright yellow-
olive bill

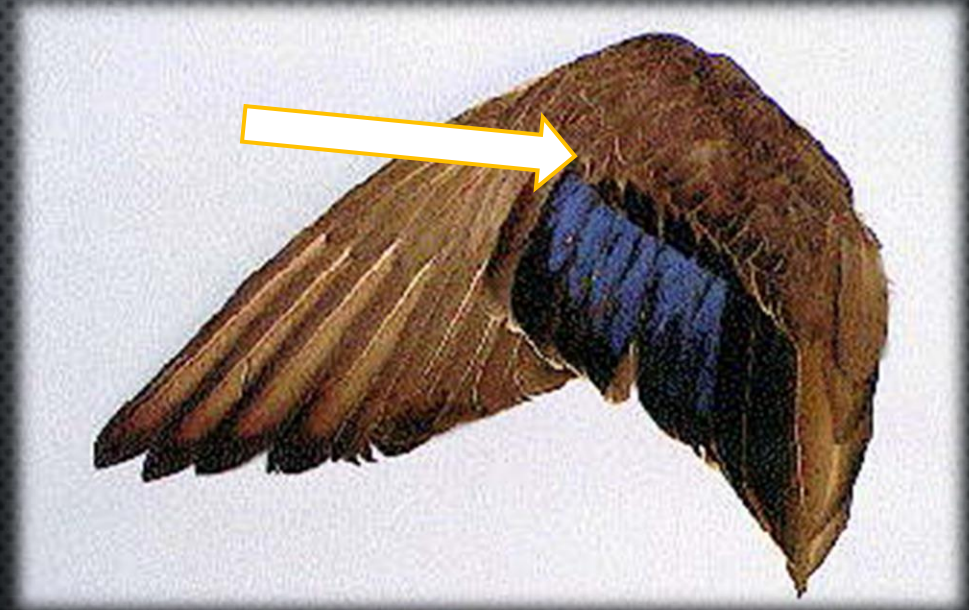
Purple-blue
speculum

Female



No white bars

Drab olive bill



Northern Pintail

Male



Overall gray bird
with brown head

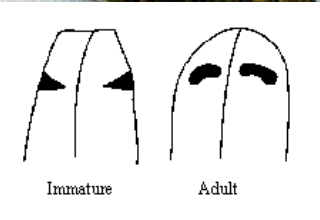
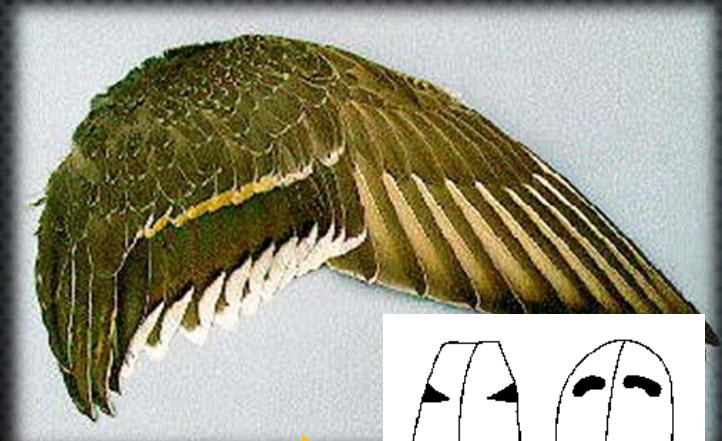
Buffy edge
Black and white
tertials



Female



White to buffy edge
Dots on feathers in
upper coverts move
to middle of feather



American Green-winged Teal



Male

White Stripe on flank
Green speculum
Defined color
change in tertials



Female

Light edged
tertials
White to buff
coverts



Gadwall

Male

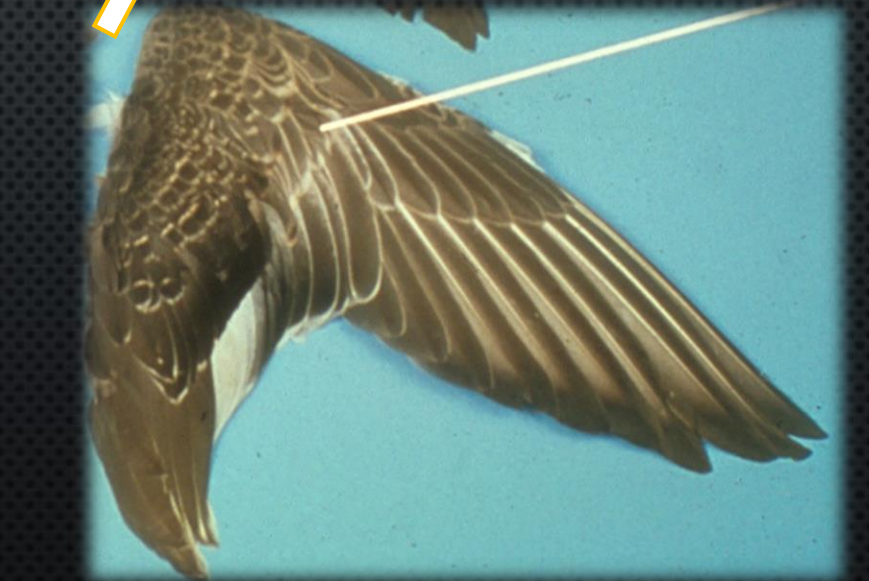
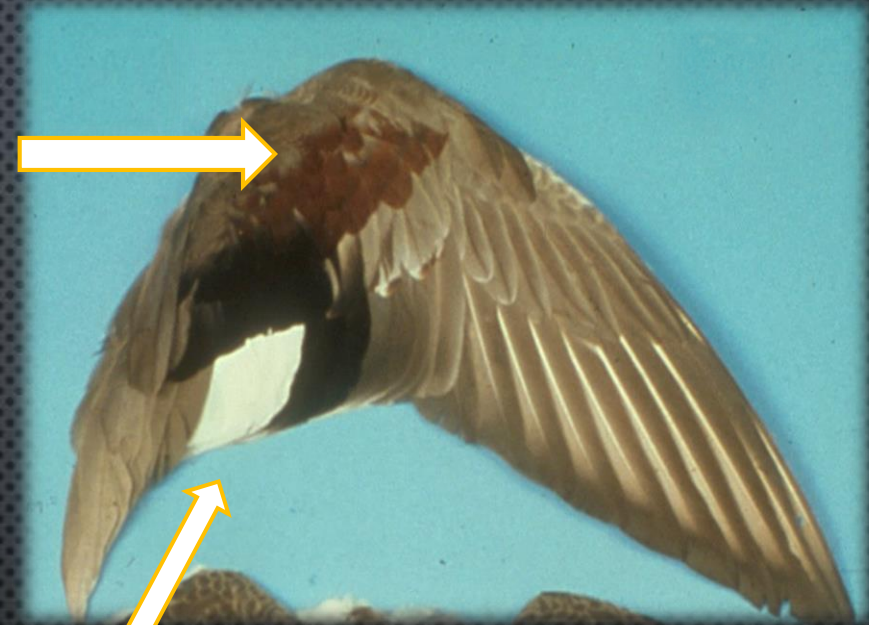


Overall gray, black rump

“Square” shape head

Chestnut shoulder patch

White speculum



Female

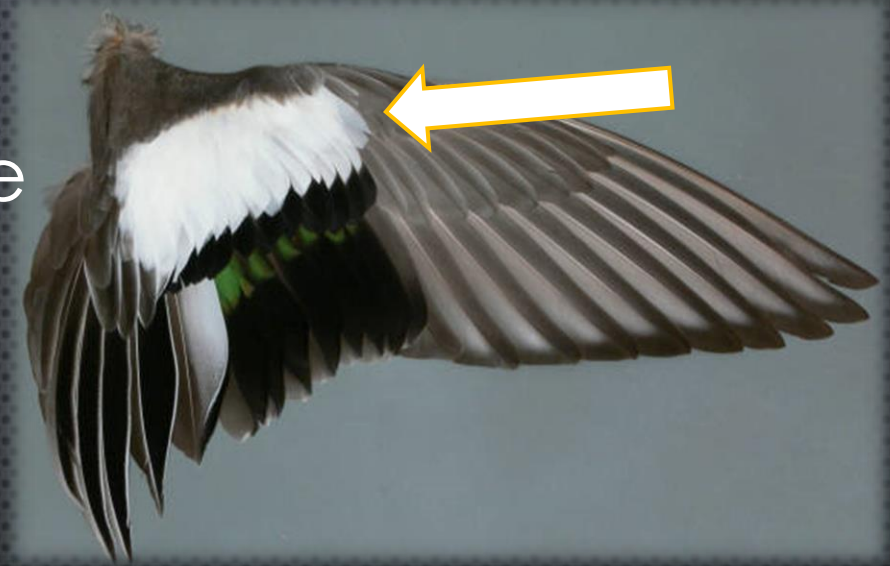


American Wigeon



Male

Reddish overall
Green eye stripe
White-cream head



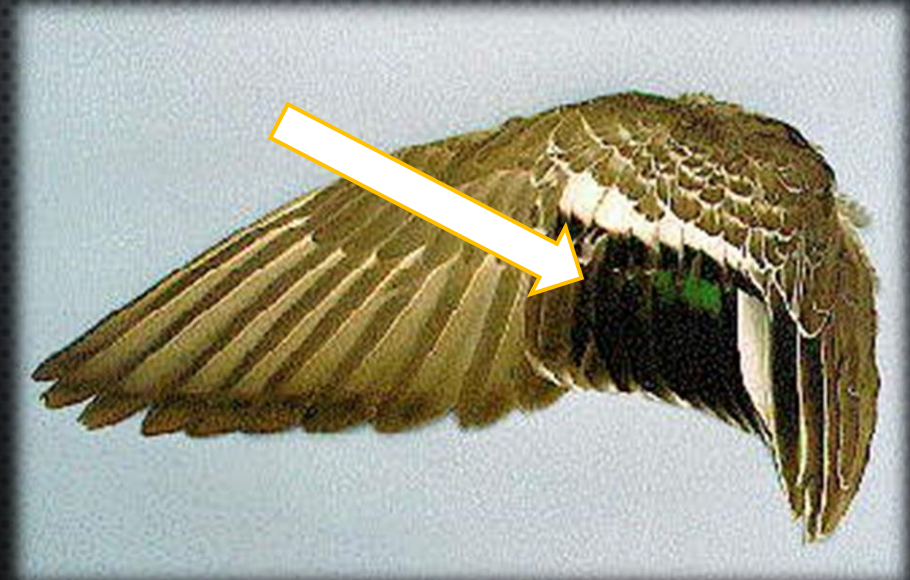
Small blueish-gray bill



Female

White shoulder patch

Black/green speculum

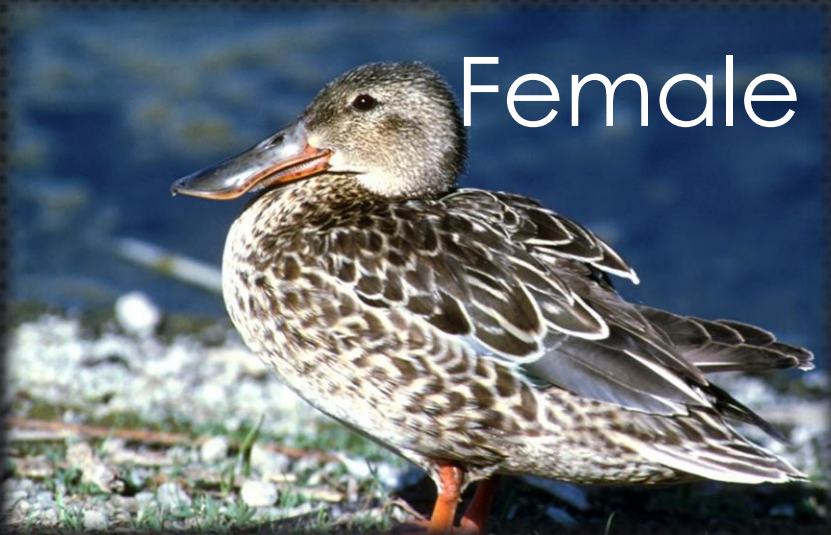


Northern Shoveler



Male

Green head
White breast,
chestnut flank
Blue shoulder,
white coverts,
and green
speculum



Female

White rachis



Blue-winged Teal

Male

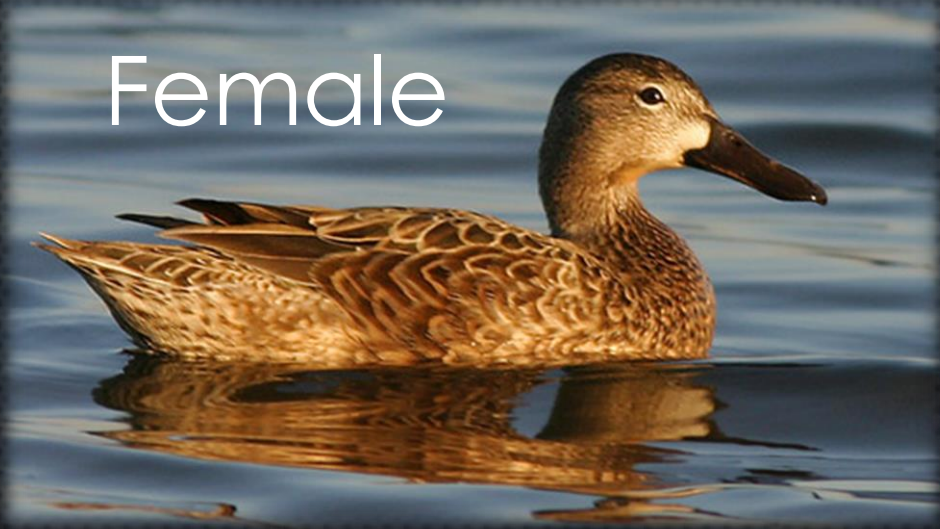


Grayish-blue head

White crescent behind bill



Female



Blue shoulder, white coverts, and green speculum



What ways do I use pasturelands?



Which wing belongs to which species?



What species am I?

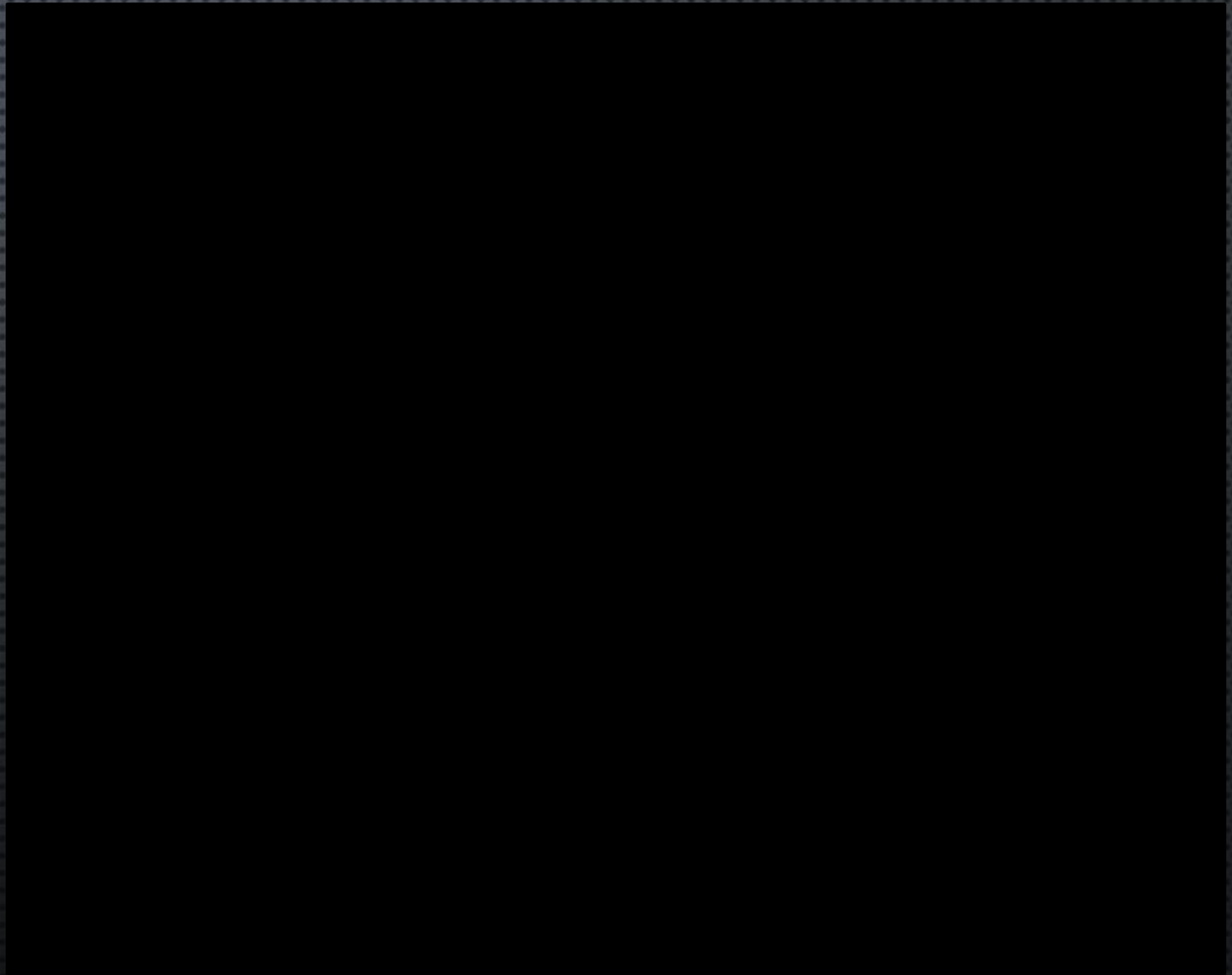


How do I use pasturelands?

Which wing belongs to which species?



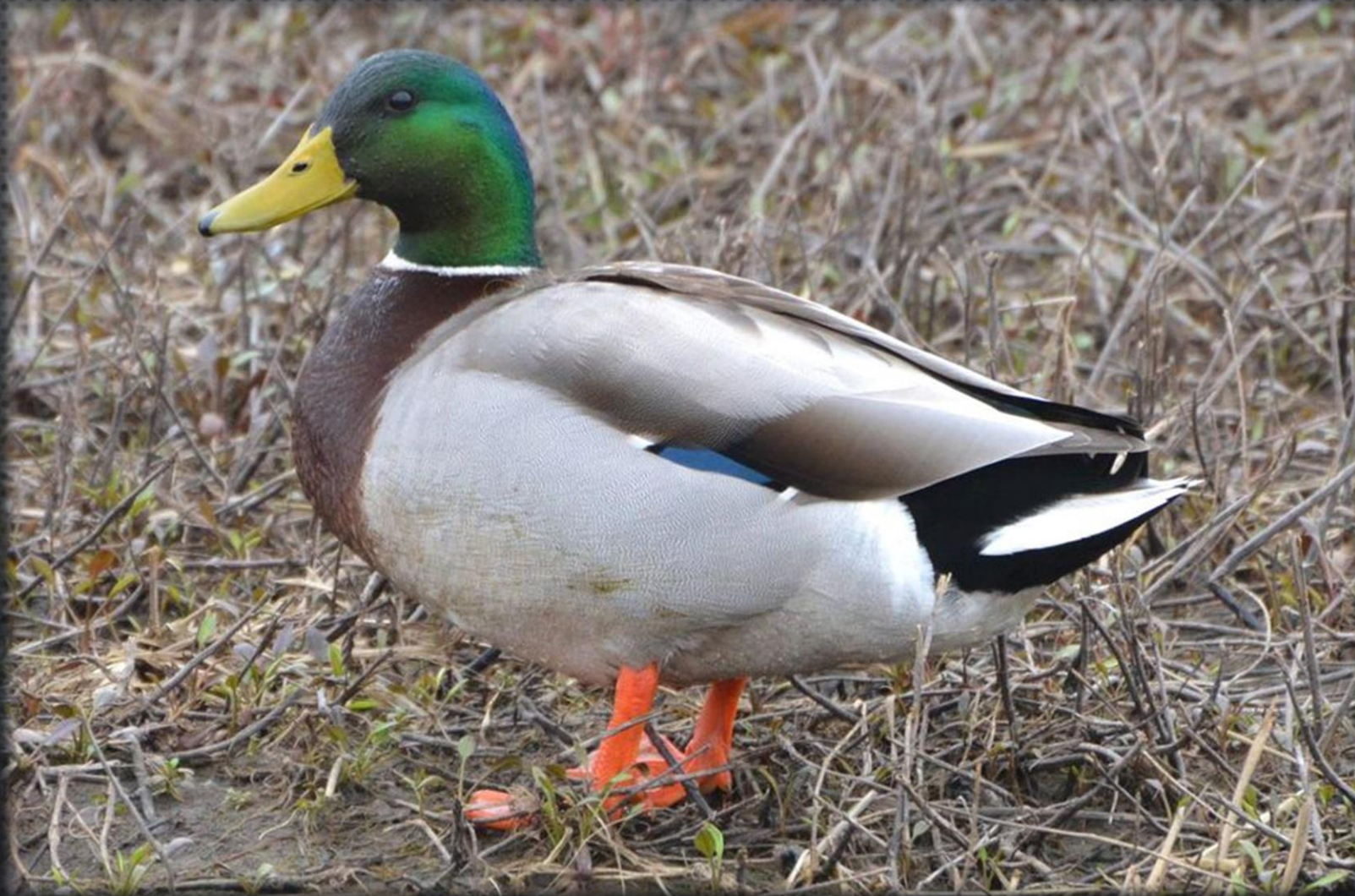
What am I?



Which wing belongs to which species?



How do I use pasturelands?



UPLAND GAMEBIRDS



Wild Turkey



5 subspecies

Eastern

Oceola

Rio Grand

Merriam's

Gould's

State extirpated in early 1900's

Reintroduced 1984 – early
2000's

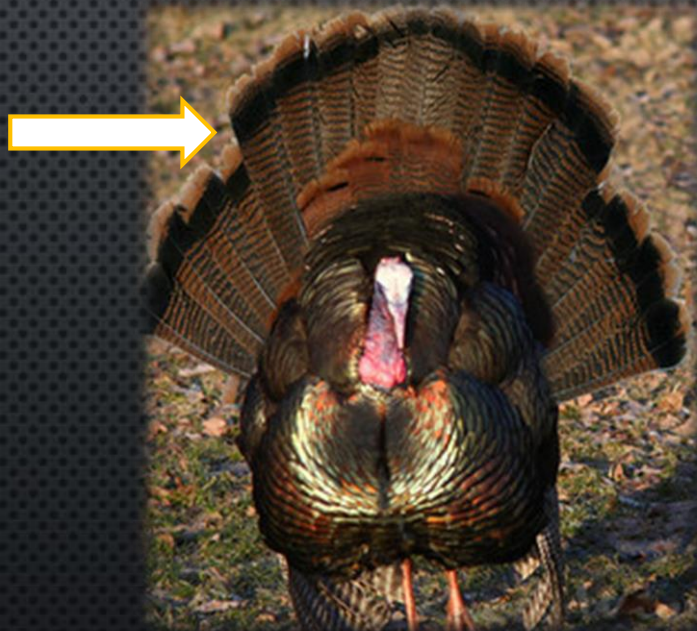
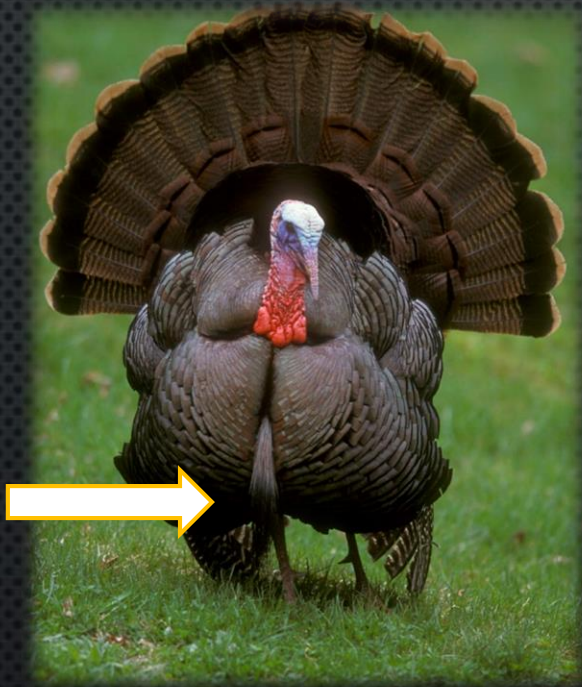
First hunting season: 1991

Age and Sex

Tom

Jake

Hen



Northern Bobwhite



Male



Female

Atlantic brant



Sea goose species

Feeds primarily on eel grass and other SAVs

DIVING DUCKS

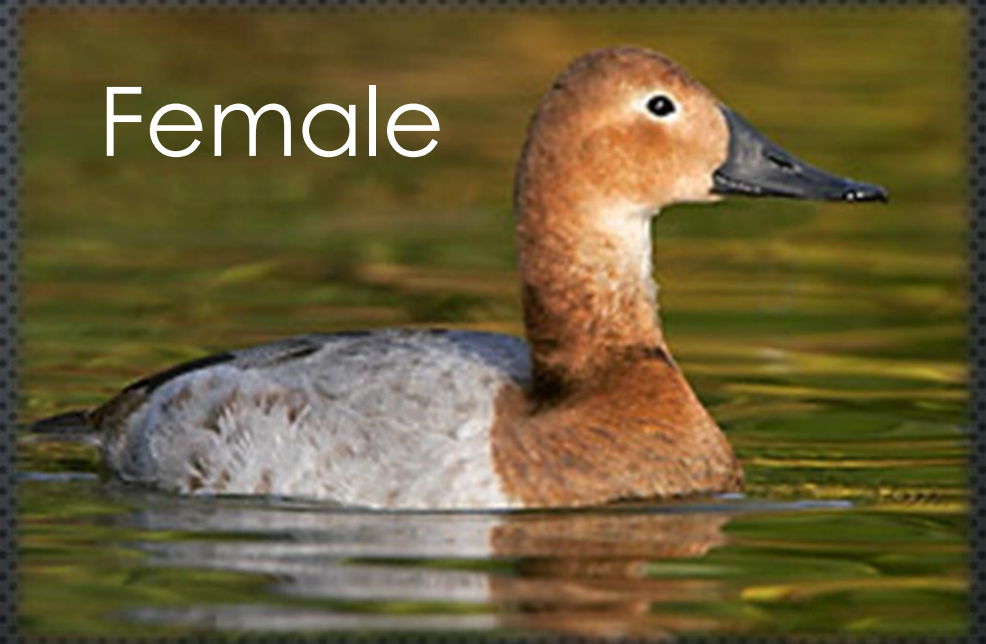


Canvasback

Male



Female



Dark, wedge shaped bill

Red head, dark breast, white back

Males have red eye



Redhead



Male



Female

light, blue bill with black tip

Red head, dark breast, gray back

Males have yellow eye

Scaup

Lesser



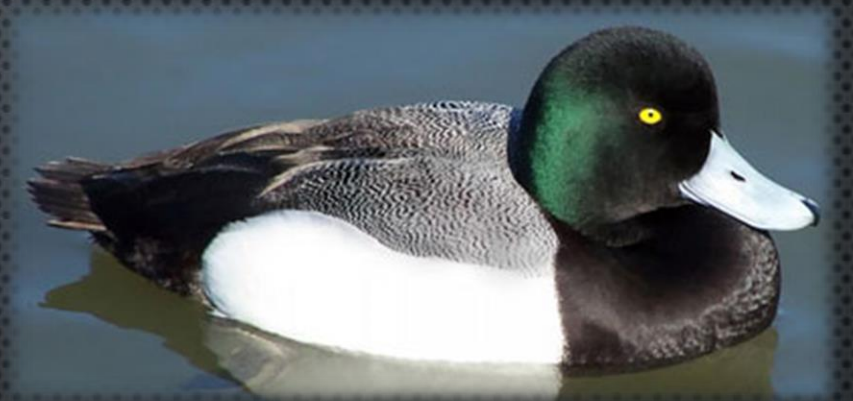
Common name is
"blue bills"

Black grey and
white overall

Lessers have more
pointed heads,
greater are more
round

White face patch
behind bill on
females

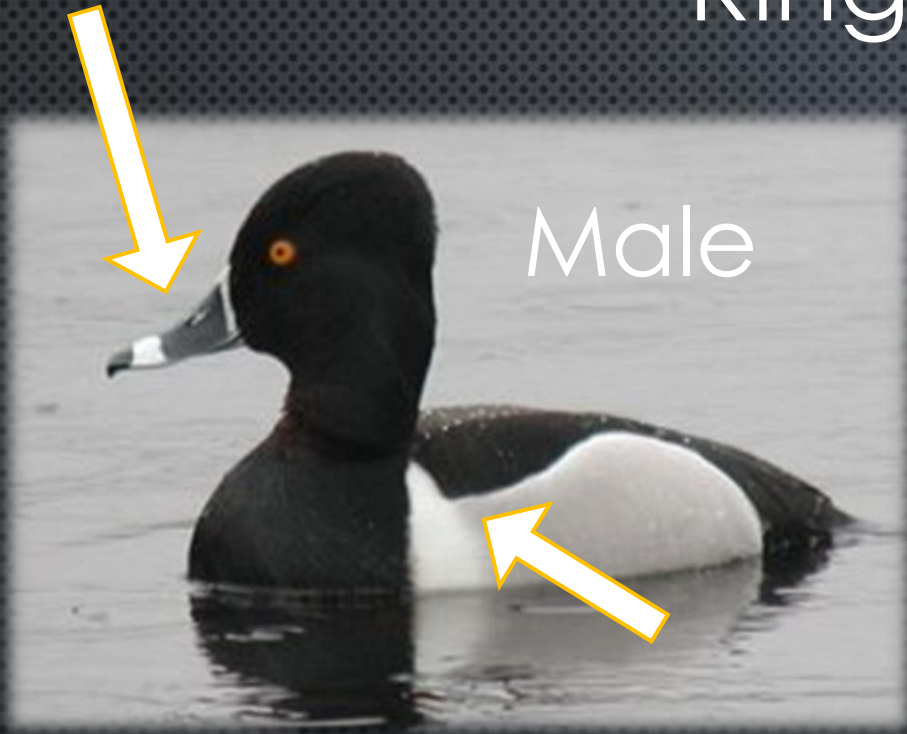
Greater





White extends into primaries

Ring-necked duck



Overall black and white, gray sides and black back

White edging and ring on bill

“Nike swoosh” pattern on back

Bufflehead



Overall black and white

Iridescent on head on male

White wedge on the back of the head

White cheek patch on the females



Hooded Merganser



Male



Female

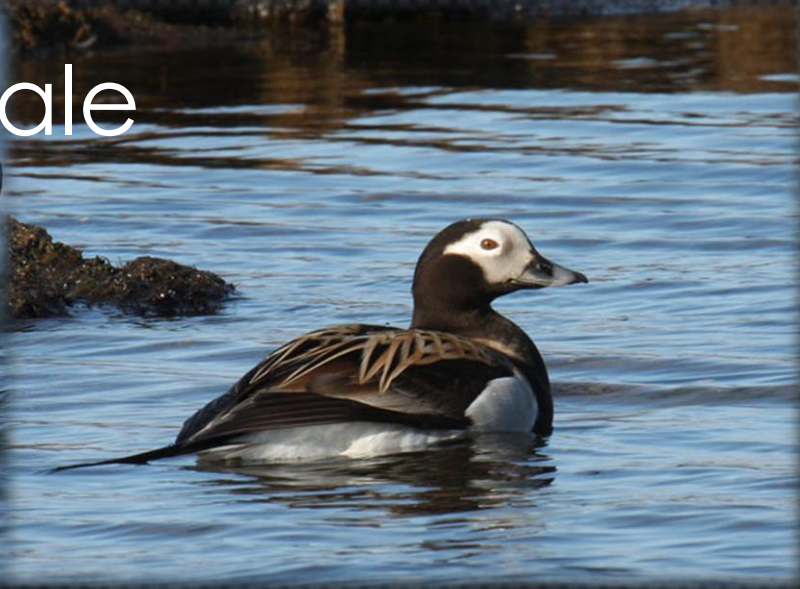
Both sexes have crests

Long-tailed Duck



Male

Winter



Summer



Female

Surf Scoter

Male



Female



Black Scoter

Male



Female

