

## BEHAVIORAL TRAITS OF A MALLARD DUCK

### Range and Habitat:

The Mallard breeds from Alaska and Quebec south to southern California, Virginia, Texas, and northern Mexico. It winters throughout the United States and south to Central America and the West Indies. Preferred habitats include ponds, lakes, marshes, small river bends, bays, and even ditches and city ponds.

### Breeding and Nesting:

Eight to ten light olive-green eggs are laid in a down-lined nest often placed some distance from the water on the ground. Mallard nests are occasionally even found in trees. Incubation ranges from 26 to 30 days and is carried out by the female.

### Foraging and Feeding:

This bird dabbles in shallow freshwater for plant food, insects, mollusks, and crustaceans. Often forages for food on the shore in fields and woodlots.

### Vocalization:

The male sounds a double note and makes a low, reedy kwek, kwek, kwek.

### Similar Species:

Similar is the Northern Shoveler, which has a long dark bill, a white breast, and chestnut brown sides. The Common and Red-breasted Mergansers are also similar, but have a narrow red bill and a crested head.



### Breeding Locations:

Grassland with scattered trees, Marshes, freshwater, Swamps

### Breeding Type:

Common to abundant

### Breeding Population:

Grassland with scattered trees, Marshes, freshwater, Swamps

### Egg Color: Green Buff

### Number of Eggs: 5 - 14

### Incubation Days: 25 - 30

### Egg Incubator: Female

### Nest Material:

Shallow pool of plant material gathered at the site.

### Migration: Migratory