

Ducks

in the speculum.

Small, compact flocks fly swiftly, usually in a direct line. Wing beats are rapid. Drakes whistle and kack-kack; hens quack like a mallard hen, but softer.

Widgeon: Nervous birds, quick to

take alarm. Agile fliers, usually in compact flocks. Flight is fast, irregular, with many twists and turns. White belly and forewing very conspicuous in the air.

When feeding, often accompanies diving ducks and robs them of food

brought up from depths beyond the widgeon's capability.

Drakes whistle; hens utter a loud kaow and a lower qua-awk.

Shoveler: Early fall migrant; usual flight is steady and direct. When startled, the small flocks fly erratically, twisting and turning like teal.

Greatest numbers occur in the Central and Pacific flyways.

Aquatic animal life forms a third of its diet.

Drakes call woh-woh and took-took; hens have a feeble quack.

Wood Duck: Found in all flyways; most numerous in the Mississippi flyway.

Frequents wooded streams and ponds; perches in trees.

Flies through thick timber with speed and ease, and feeds readily on acorns, berries, and grapes on the forest floor.

Flight is swift and direct; flocks are usually small.

Drakes have a hoo-w-ett, often in flight; hens have a cr-r-ek when frightened.

Great Scaup: Flock movement is rapid, in fairly compact formation; over feeding areas they normally fly under hundred-foot altitude. The wings produce a loud rustling sound.

Longer light strip showing through the wing is the best way to distinguish

from the lesser scaup in the air.

Frequents the largest bodies of water, where it rafts up during the day.

Drakes utter a discordant scaup, scaup; hens are usually silent.

Common Goldeneye: Distinctive wing-whistling sound in flight has earned the name of Whistlers.

Active, strong-winged fliers, moving in small flocks, often high in the air. Exceedingly wary. Large numbers winter in Great Lakes and both sea-coasts.

Barrow's Goldeneye, predominantly a westerner, differs mainly in the white crescent in front of the eye.

Drakes have a piercing speer-speer; hens a low quack. Both are usually quiet.

Redhead: Ranges coast to coast, often found with canvasback. On migration, large flocks travel in V's; in feeding areas, flocks fly in irregular formations. Movements in the air always seem to be hurried.

Usually spends the day in the large rafts in deep water; feeds morning and evening in more shallow sections.

Drakes purr and meow; hens have a loud squawk, higher than mallard

hen's.

Canvasback: Extremely powerful fliers, migrating in lines and irregular V's; in feeding areas, compact flocks fly in indefinite formation. Wing beat is rapid and noisy. Normally late migrants.

On the water, body size and head shape distinguish them from scaups and redheads.

Drakes croak, peep, and growl; hens quack, similar to a mallard.

Hooded Merganser: Often seen in pairs, or very small flocks.

The birds are graceful fliers, give an impression of great speed. Flushes straight up or patters along water.

Wing strokes are short, rapid; the wings appear to blur.

Seldom goes to salt water; wintering grounds are the inland waters in all coastal states. Only call is a series of coarse grunts.

Red-Breasted Merganser: Flight is very similar to common mergansers, but drakes show far less conspicuous white.

Juveniles and many adult drakes resemble hens during migration, for (See Ducks, Page 13)



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Definitions

Continued from Page 10

months immediately before applying for a license and members of the United States Armed Forces (and their dependents) on active duty anywhere.

Non-Resident: Any person who is not a resident.

Sinkbox: A low floating device concealing a person below the surface of the water.

Waterfowl: Ducks (including teal), geese, mergansers and coots.

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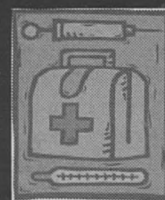


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