

Duck

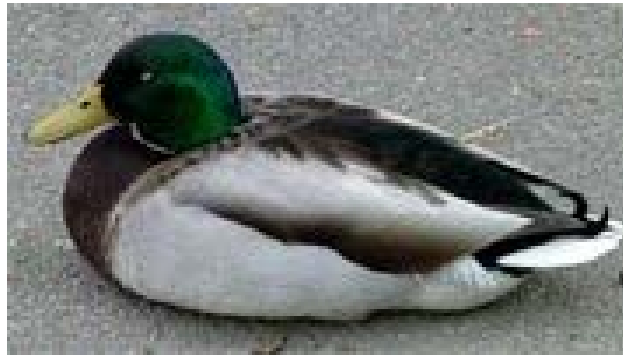
1. Habitat

Duck habitats include freshwater lakes, open sea, ponds, rivers and streams.

They are found worldwide except Antarctica.

2. Growth & Reproduction

A male duck is called a Drake and has a flamboyant plumage to attract females. Ducks lay between 4 to 18 eggs. Ducks live for about 20 years.



4. Food

Ducks feed on seeds, water plants, grass, insects and small water creatures.

Mallards and many other ducks have rows of spiny, comb-like ridges along the edges of their bills. They use these to sieve or strain food such as seeds or tiny water animals, whenever drinking water.

3. Adaptation

Ducks are good swimmers and strong flyers, like swans and geese their close relatives. They have webbed feet for paddling through water and some of them spend most of their lives on the water, only visiting land to breed. Their thick plumage has a layer of soft downy feathers next to the skin, which traps air and keeps them warm even if the water is cold. They keep their outer layer of feathers covered with plenty of oil, produced by their bodies, to make them waterproof. Most ducks nest on the ground near water, hiding their nest among the undergrowth.