

Beloved species from Canada's wetlands

MALLARD

Anas platyrhynchos

- + Ancestor of most domestic duck breeds—first domesticated at least 4,000 years ago.
- + Can leave the water in a nearly vertical take-off, by smacking its wings on the surface and pushing down with its tail feathers.
- + Like other ducks, sheds its flight feathers after breeding season and hides away during a three-to-four-week flightless period while the feathers regrow.
- + Females tend to nest near where they were born, sometimes returning to the exact same place year after year—usually within one kilometre of a wetland.
- + Usually migrates at an altitude of 60-1,200 metres, but has been observed flying 6.4 kilometres high (where one was struck by a commercial airliner).
- + The drake's green head inspired the Ducks Unlimited Canada logo, created by Winnipeg artist Ernie Wilson and adopted by DUC in 1970 as our symbol of conservation. It has since come to represent Ducks Unlimited around the world.
- + Was the first duck to be minted as a silver coin, as part of the Royal Canadian Mint's commemorative edition for DUC's 75th anniversary.

