



is a

Harlequin duck

You were banded in Banff National Park in the early spring, by park biologists.

You are a type of sea duck, so your family spends most of the year swimming in the **Pacific ocean** between Alaska and California. But your parents came to Alberta to breed and this is where your mom made her nest.

Your mom laid you and four other **creamy-white eggs** in a nest beside a rushing river high in the Rocky Mountains. Your dad flew back to the West Coast before you hatched.

Within a few months, you had grown your **flight feathers** and it was time to follow your mom to migrate west to the coast. A short while later you joined other sea ducks along the marshy shores of Vancouver Island. Not all ducks fly south!

Conservation note: The Harlequin is very rare in parts of Canada and was the first duck species to be added to Canada's list of threatened and endangered species. Harlequins nest on fast flowing rivers and may be disturbed by people who enjoy sport rafting.

Banding or marking ducks is one way for scientists to learn about them and what they need to survive. Learn how you can help by visiting education.ducks.ca

WOW
Has many nicknames – “rock ducks”, “painted ducks”, “totem pole ducks” and even “squeaker” or “sea mouse”, because of the funny squeaking sound it makes.



Ducks Unlimited Canada
Conserving Canada's Wetlands

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