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# Harlequin duck

You were banded by Ducks Unlimited Canada scientists one winter along Vancouver Island's shore. For the next year, you wore a leg band with a special **satellite tracking device** that helped these scientists learn more about how to protect ducks like you.

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 flew over the mountains to Alberta to breed.

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.

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](http://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

Active by nature.