



# is a Mallard

You were banded along the Bow River in Calgary on a spring day by a Ducks Unlimited Canada scientist while searching for bugs to eat. Your mate, a female or hen, had laid 12 **greenish-coloured eggs** in a nest hidden in a grassy field nearby.

You left after nesting was underway, while your mate stayed to keep the eggs warm and care for the young when they hatched. You needed to find a large marsh to begin your **moult** – a time when you lost your old worn feathers and grew new ones. You often hid from **predators** in the reeds during this time, because you couldn't fly to escape them.

By late summer you joined with other mallards to migrate south and were spotted in northern California, USA.

**Conservation note:** The most abundant and widely recognized duck in the world, this “puddle duck” will nest near any tiny body of water – including a backyard swimming pool!

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**  
Mallards fly higher than any other duck  
– over 6 kilometres above the earth!



Ducks Unlimited Canada  
Conserving Canada's Wetlands

Active by nature.