

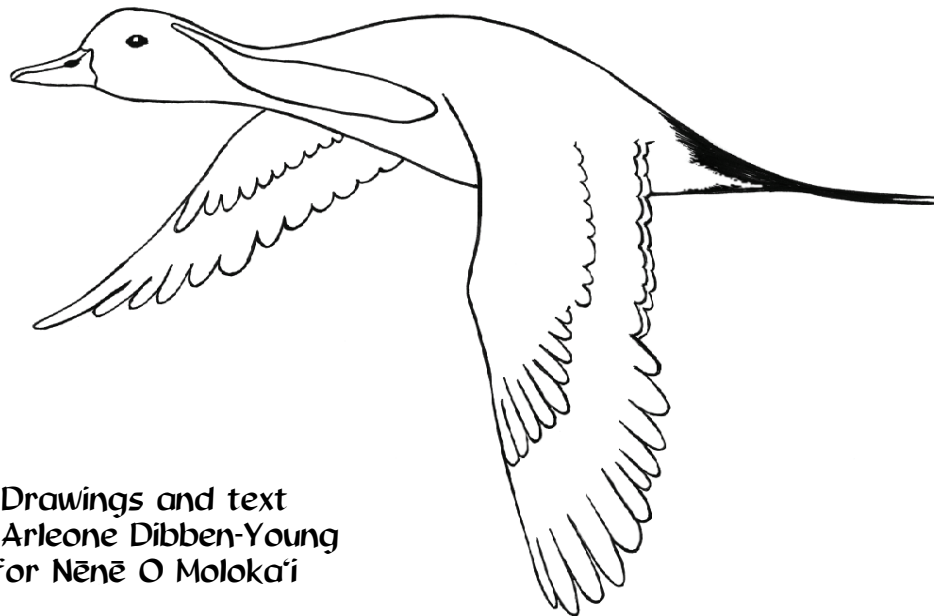
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Nēnē O Molokaʻi  
P.O. Box 585  
Kaunakakai, Molokaʻi  
Hawaii 96748

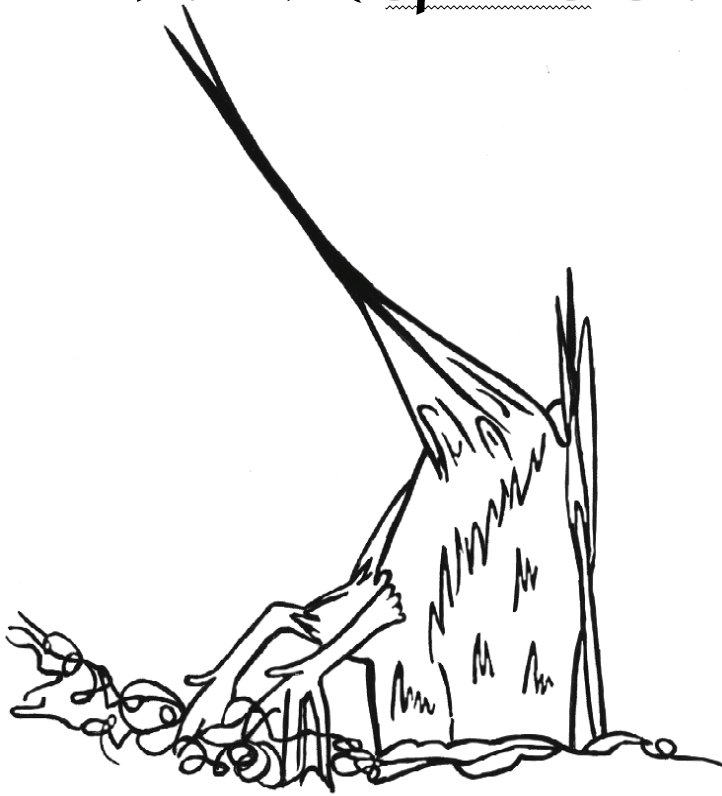
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# Ducks of the Hawaiian Flyway



Drawings and text  
by Arleone Dibben-Young  
for Nēnē O Molokaʻi

## What duck species is this?



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## Ducks of the Hawaiian Flyway

Every year wild ducks of many sizes, shapes and colors fly to Hawai'i to spend their winter. The ducks navigate across thousands of miles of open ocean from Alaska, Canada, the Pacific Northwest and as far away as Japan and Siberia. The invisible path these wild ducks use is called the Hawaiian Flyway. Biologists estimate that at one time there were more than 80,000 ducks that traveled on the Hawaiian Flyway, with parents showing their new ducklings the way. Today less than 1,000 ducks make the journey to spend their winter in Hawai'i, and each new generation remembers the invisible path to fly.

Ducks are properly called waterfowl. There are other birds that migrate at the same time as these ducks and also use the Hawaiian Flyway. They include

geese and shorebirds such as Pacific Golden-Plover, Wandering Tattler, and the Sanderling.

All of the birds that travel on the Hawaiian Flyway share wetlands throughout Hawai'i for food and water. In the spring the shorebirds and the waterfowl fly back to their homes to breed, nest and hatch their eggs. At summer's end, when the ducklings have fledged but before their homelands are covered with snow, some of the parent birds once again use the Hawaiian Flyway to bring their young to Hawai'i.

By protecting Hawai'i's wetlands we not only provide a place for these amazing birds to stay during the winter, but we help protect the memory of the invisible path they share and guarantee they'll be here for future generations to enjoy.

The bill of a duck tells a story about how it eats. A bill with hair-like lamellae (looking like a moustache on the side of the bill) filters food particles while dabbling on the water's surface. A duck that has a broad bill with a strong edge can yank vegetation from the bottom of a pond. And a duck with a "nail" on the tip of its bill can eat plants such as a sedge called makaloa in Hawaiian.

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The Hawaiian name for this duck is the koloa māpu. This duck looks like it has a big pin-shaped feather growing out of its tail.



This duck is called a Northern Pintail.  
"Phew! Phew!" is the sound of a pintail.

When a Hooded Merganser is excited the feathers on top of its head will rise, making a crest or hood. The name of this duck hints about how it feeds. The Hooded Merganser (Mer, as in mermaid) is referred to as a sea duck because it has evolved to feed underwater. It has a bill with a serrated, or saw-like edge for catching food that is slippery. Can you guess what a Hooded Merganser eats?

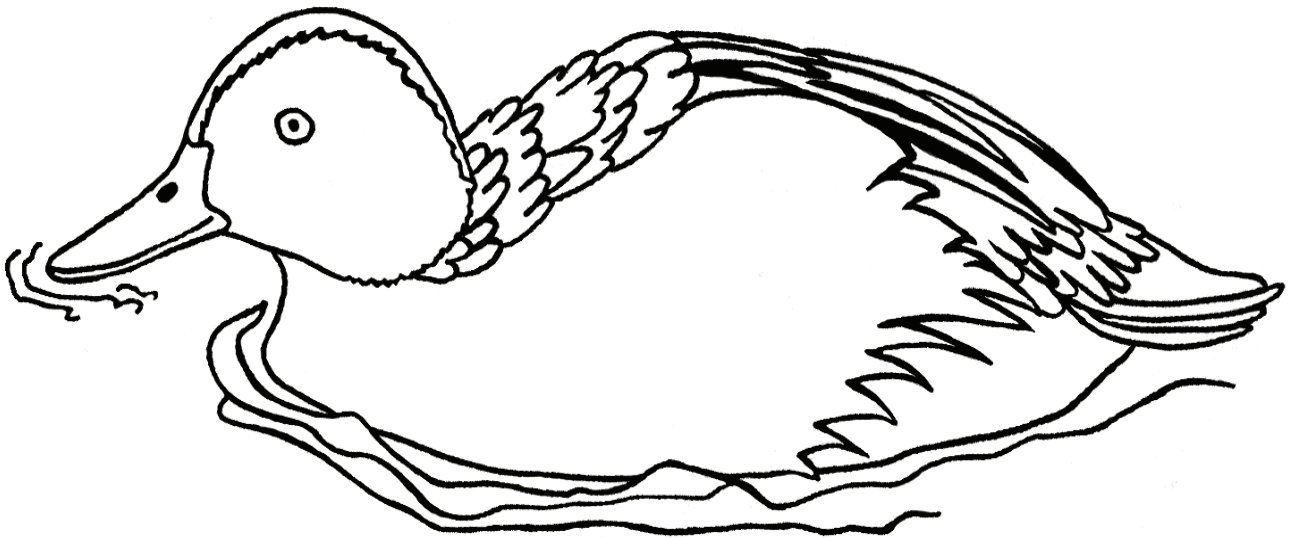
Draw what the Hooded Merganser eats.

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Draw a Hawaiian Goose, the nēnē,  
the most endangered goose in the world.

9

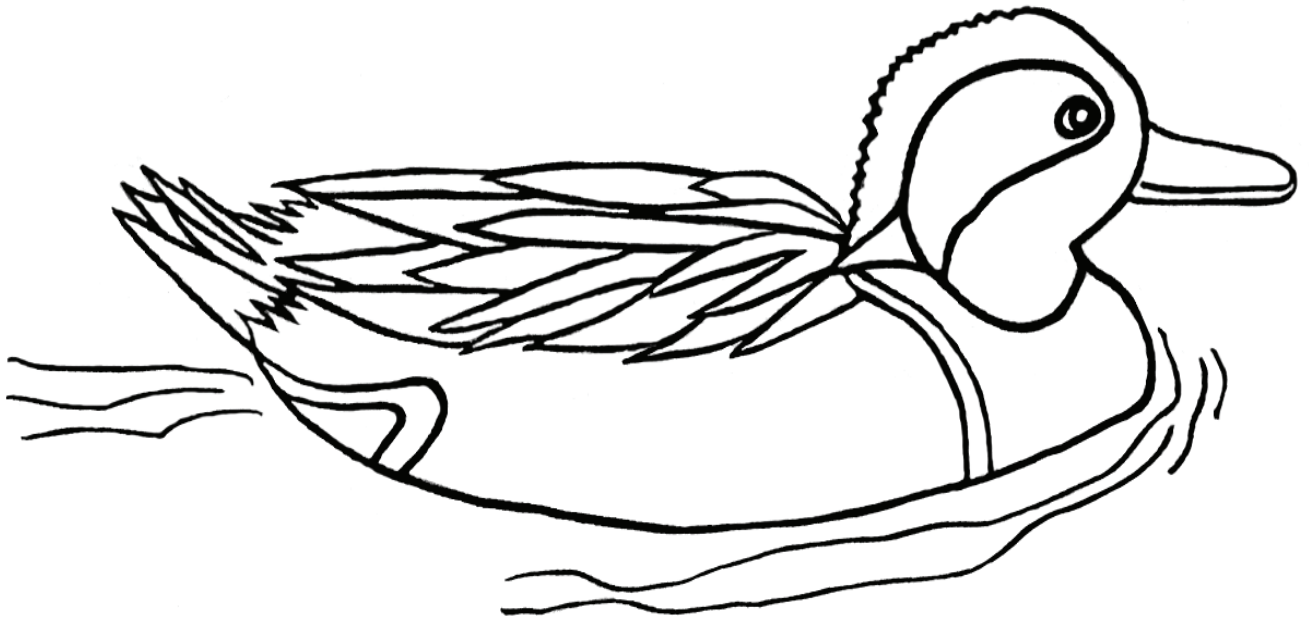
If this duck is short-necked - called teal - and it is the color of cinnamon, what is its name?



This duck makes a “clickity-clack” noise.

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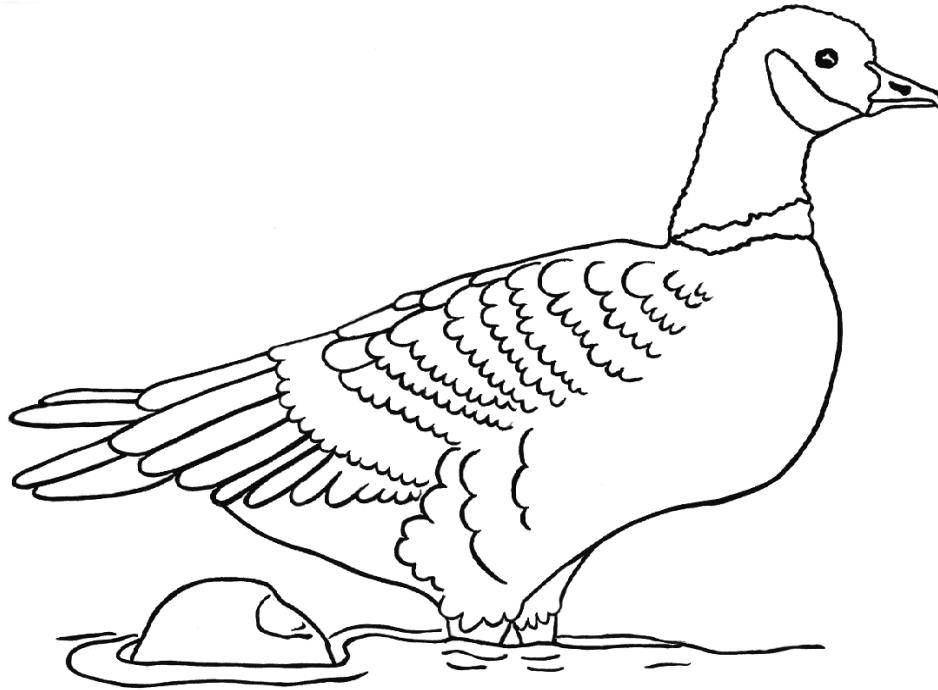
If this duck is short-necked and has bright green feathers on its wings, what species of duck is it?



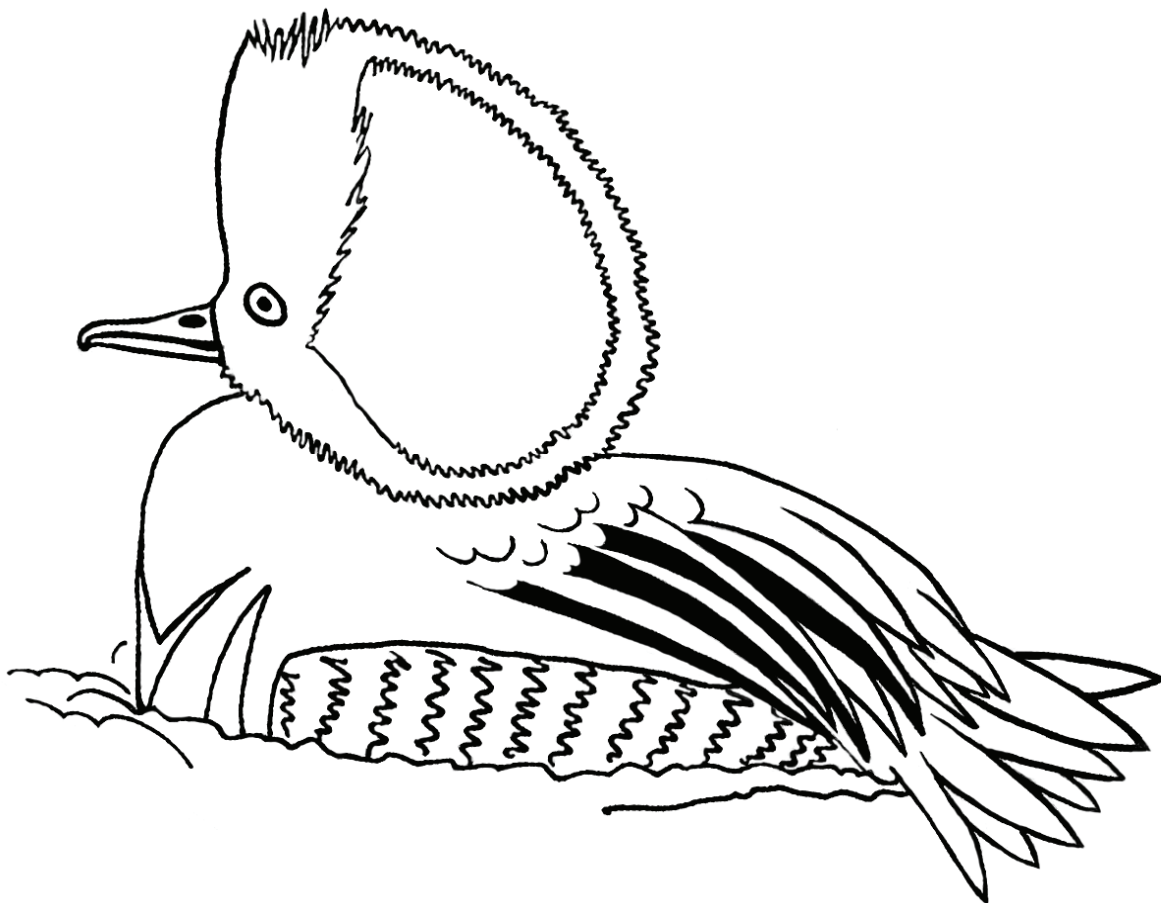
Not all ducks go “quack!”  
This duck chirps like a cricket.

7

Not all of the waterfowl that use the Hawaiian Flyway are ducks. Some are geese. This winter visitor lives in the Aleutian Islands in Alaska and looks like a nēnē. It is called the Aleutian Canada Goose and is an endangered species.

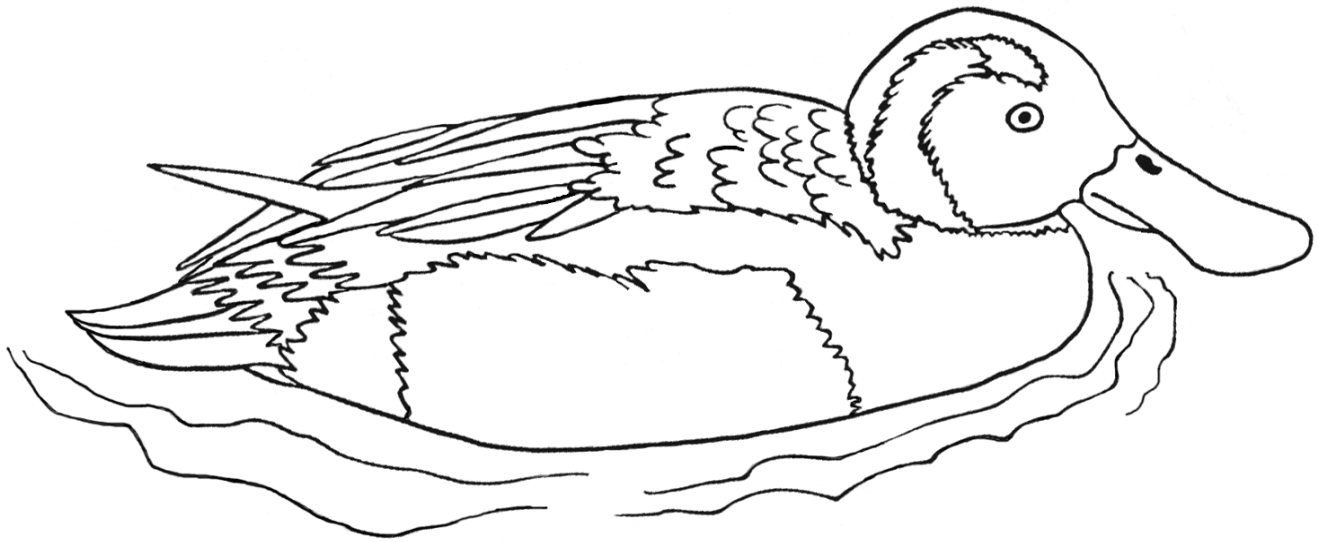


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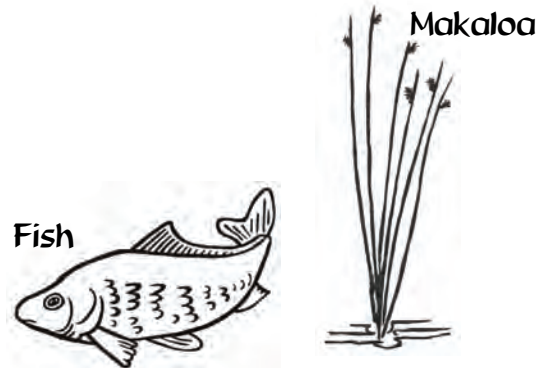
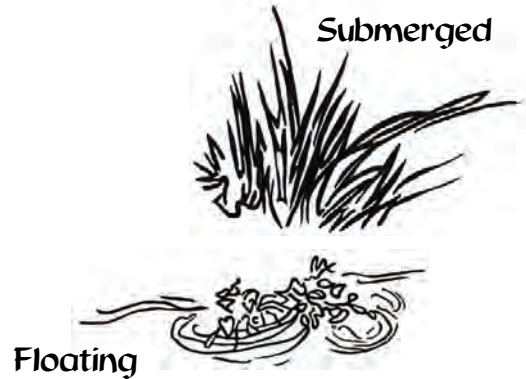
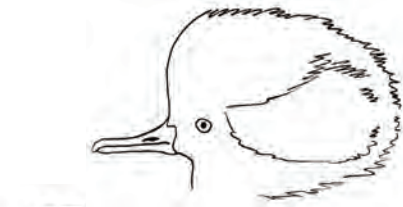
Sometimes the name of a duck can be guessed by what they look like, such as this duck... Look at the shape of the bill.



...the Northern Shoveler.  
A shoveler makes a “choo-choo, choo-choo” sound.  
Koloa mohā is the Hawaiian name for the shoveler.

2

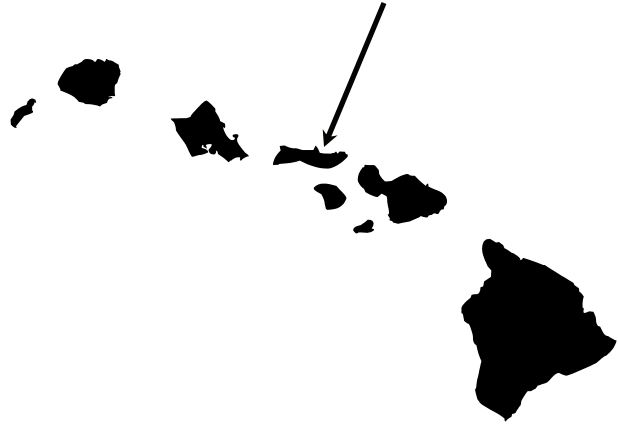
Draw a line from the bills of each duck to the food that might eat.





This waterfowl is a Snow Goose.

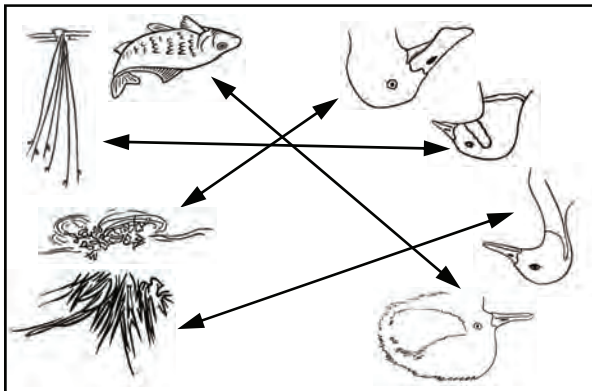
Only ten sightings of this species have been recorded in Hawai'i since 1900. The last Snow Goose observed in Hawai'i was on the island of Moloka'i on October 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, 1998, at the Kaunakakai Wastewater Recalination Facility.



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Production by  
Nēnē O Moloka'i  
P.O. Box 580  
Kaunakakai, Hawai'i 96748

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Page 4 Fish  
Page 6 Cinnamon Teal  
Page 7 Green-winged Teal  
Page 12 Pintail

## Answers to the questions:

### Glossary (Definitions)

- Bill** - The jaws or mouth of a duck, goose or swan.
- Biologist** - A person who studies plant and animal life, and the environment.
- Dabbling** - Feeding on the surface of the water.
- Endangered species** - A plant or animal threatened with extinction, needing protection or it will vanish forever.
- Evolved** - Changing or developing over time.
- Filters** - To separate or to remove.
- Fledged** - Capable of flying.
- Generation** - The span of time between parents and their offspring.
- Mer** - Another word for sea or ocean.
- Migrate** - To move from one location or place to another.
- Navigate** - To travel from one place to another, sometimes using stars, ocean currents, or wind as guides.
- Sedge** - A wetland plant with a creeping stem that grows a new plant.
- Shorebirds** - Birds that frequent the seashore.
- Species** - A living organism sharing common characteristics with another living thing.
- Vegetation** - Another name for plants.
- Waterfowl** - Birds that swim in water and frequent ponds or rivers such as ducks, geese and swans.
- Wetlands** - An area that contains considerable water in the soil such as a marsh, swamp or tidal mud flat.
- Wild** - Not domestic or raised in the same manner as farm animals.

I like the \_\_\_\_\_ duck because \_\_\_\_\_ .