

Bufflehead Duck

Bucephala albeola

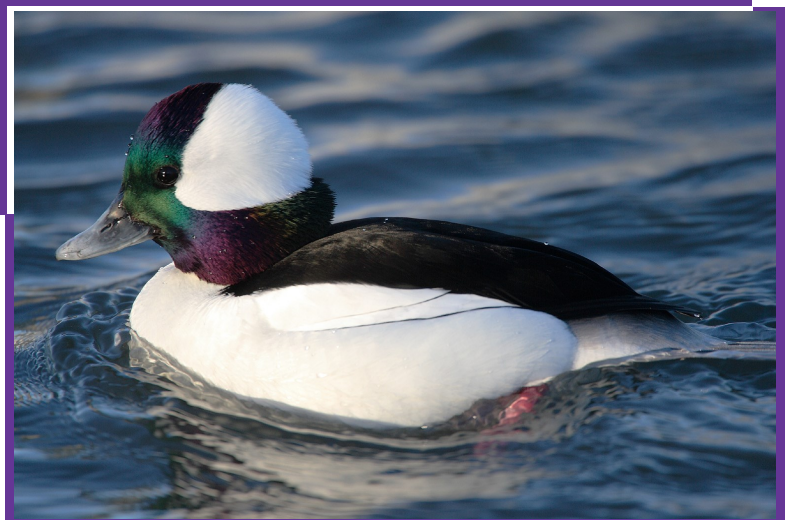
Description

This very small, compact, buoyant diving duck can be identified by its large, dark, puffy looking head with short, wide, greyish bill. This tiny duck has an average length is just 36 cm or 14.5 inches, wingspan about 53 cm or 21 inches, and weight 411 g or 15 ounces. The best places to spot a Bufflehead are small lakes with marshy edges and open centres, and areas where there are lots of poplar trees and aspen woodlands in central Alberta from the Spring through to late Autumn. The Bufflehead is one of the scarcest ducks in North America and its numbers continue to suffer from logging and agricultural clearing of poplar stands and aspen woodlands, decreases in the numbers of Northern Flickers in an area, and human hunting activities. The Bufflehead migrates from Mexico or the Gulf Coast of the United States to breed in Canada, and even as far north as Alaska.



FUN FACTS



- Buffleheads are one of the last ducks to migrate southwards in the winter; some stay year round in open water.
- When mature, the female Bufflehead will return each year to the area she was born to find a place to lay her eggs.
- The Bufflehead is Canada's smallest duck; they can squeeze through holes only 8 cm wide.
- Buffleheads are territorial; males will defend their choice of mate and females will defend their nesting/rearing sites.




If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal in distress, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at **403-214-1312** for tips, instructions and advice, or visit the website for more information www.calgarywildlife.org



Contact Us

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