



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Male (01-IV).

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

IDENTIFICATION

50-65 cm. **Male in breeding** plumage with 50-65 cm. **Male in breeding** plumage with green head and neck; grey upper and underparts; central pair of tail feathers greatly elongated and curved. **Non-breeding male, female and 1st year** birds buff, mottled and dark streaked. In **all plumages** wing speculum blue bordered black and white.



Mallard. Pattern of speculum.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Male in breeding plumage unmistakable. **Female, male in non-breeding** plumage and **1st year** birds easily recognized by pattern of wing speculum.

SEXING

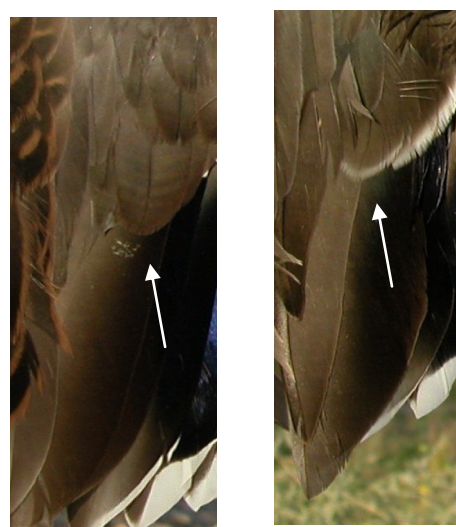
Male in breeding plumage unmistakable with green head, purple brown breast and grey body. **Adult male in non-breeding** plumage and **1st year male** quite similar to **female** but with green or yellow bill; tertial coverts without white tip. **Adult female** and **1st year female** with dark patches on bill; tertial coverts with white tip. In **non-breeding** plumage, **adult males** can also be recognized by their usually red brown breast and only softly streaked (**CAUTION:** pattern variation in this species is very high).



Mallard. Sexing. Breeding plumage. Pattern of head and bill: left male; right female.



Mallard. Sexing. Non-breeding plumage. Pattern of head and bill: left male; right female.



Mallard. Sexing. Non-breeding plumage. Pattern of tips of tertials coverts: left male; right female.

AGEING

3 age groups can be recognized:

1st year summer with grey-brown edge on the outermost tail feather (till be moulted late August); tertial coverts with triangular tip; black patch on tip of 4th, 5th and 6th greater coverts rounded; the outermost greater covert with small white patch.

1st year autumn/2nd year spring with **juvenile** flight feathers and greater and median coverts retained; **females** usually retain one or more tertials; both sexes can retain tertial coverts, which are worn with moult limit with the moulted neighbor feathers.

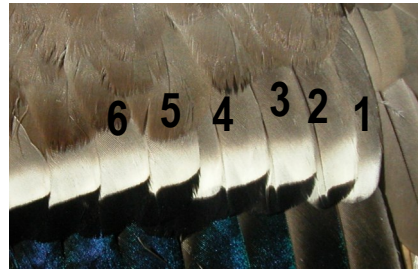
Adult with white edge on the outermost tail feather; tertial coverts with rounded tip; black patch on tip of 4th, 5th and 6th greater coverts angular; the outermost greater covert with large white patch.



Mallard. Ageing. Non-breeding plumage. Male. Pattern of the outermost tail feather: left adult; right juvenile.



Mallard. Ageing. Non-breeding plumage. Pattern of the tips of the tertial coverts: left adult; right juvenile.



Mallard. Ageing. Male. Pattern of the outermost greater coverts: top adult; bottom juvenile.



Mallard. Ageing. Female. Pattern of the outermost greater coverts: top adult; bottom juvenile.



MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** moult, acquiring **non-breeding** plumage, usually finished in August in **males** and late September in **females**. Partial **postjuvenile** moult confined to body feathers, scapulars, flank and tail, finished between August and October. Both age groups have a partial **prebreeding** moult acquiring **breeding** plumage and moulting tertials and tail.

PHENOLOGY

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

- Summer visitor
- Wintering
- Resident
- On passage

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Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Female (04-III).



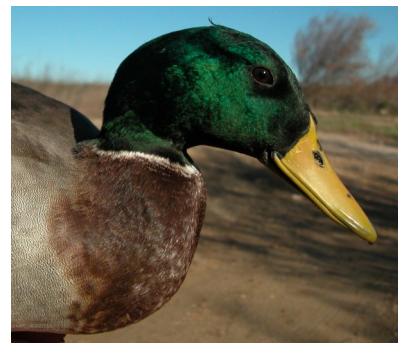
Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Male (15-I).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Female (15-VI).

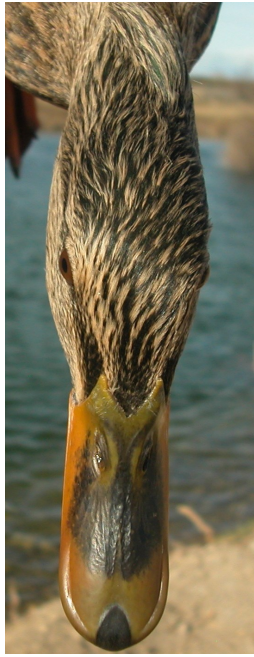


Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Pattern of head and bill: top male (01-IV); bottom female (04-III).



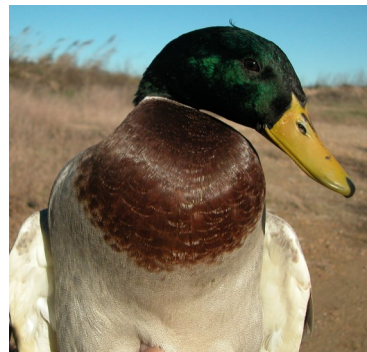
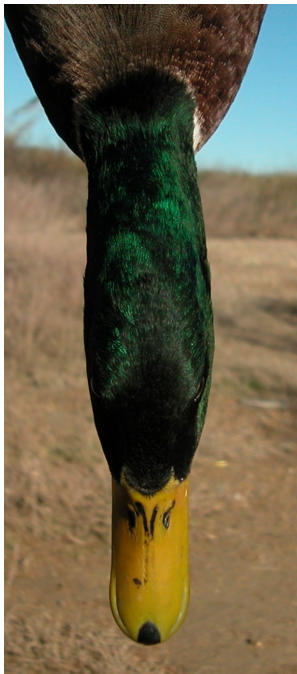
Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Pattern of head and bill: top male (15-I); bottom female (15-VI).

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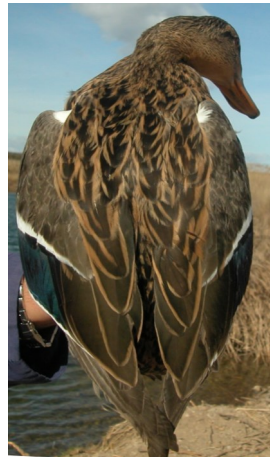
Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Breast pattern: top male (01-IV); bottom female (04-III).

Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Pattern of crown and bill: left male (01-IV); right female (04-III).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Breast pattern: top male (15-I); bottom female (15-VI).

Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Pattern of crown and bill: left male (15-I); right female (15-VI).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (01-IV); right female (04-III).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Upperpart pattern: left male (15-I); right female (15-VI).



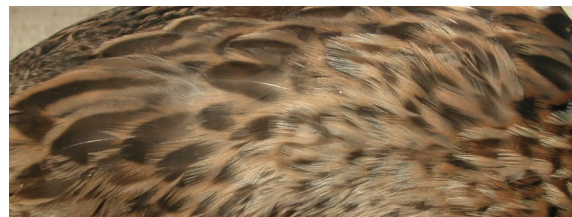
Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of flank (01-IV).



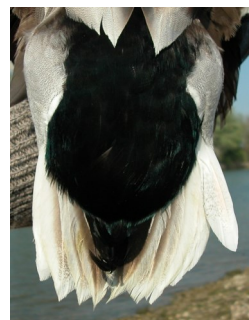
Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Female:



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Male: pattern of flank (15-I).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Female: pattern of flank (15-VI).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (01-IV); right female (04-III).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Tail pattern: left male (15-I); right female (15-VI).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (01-IV); right female (04-III).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (15-I); right female (15-VI).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Pattern of tertials: left male (01-IV); right female (04-III).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Pattern of tertials: left male (15-I); right female (15-VI).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of speculum (01-IV).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Female: pattern of speculum (04-III).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Male: pattern of speculum (15-I).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Female: pattern of speculum (15-VI).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of tips of greater coverts 1 to 6 (01-IV).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Female: pattern of tips of greater coverts 1 to 6 (04-III).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Male: pattern of tips of greater coverts 1 to 6 (15-I).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Female: pattern of tips of greater coverts 1 to 6 (15-VI).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Male: pattern of primaries (15-I).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (01-IV).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year Female: pattern of primaries (15-VI).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries (04-III).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries (01-IV).



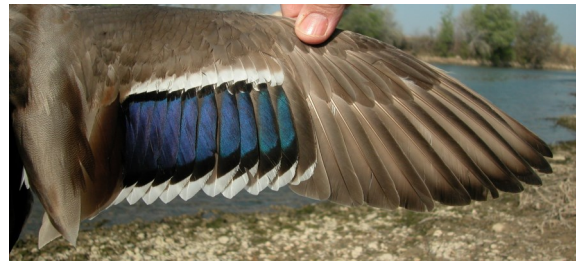
Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries (04-III).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Male: pattern of secondaries (15-I).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Female: pattern of secondaries (15-VI).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (01-IV).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (04-III).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Male (04-VIII).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (15-I).

Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Female (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 2nd year. Male (26-VII).



Mallard. Spring. Breeding plumage. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (15-VI).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 2nd year. Female (09-VIII).

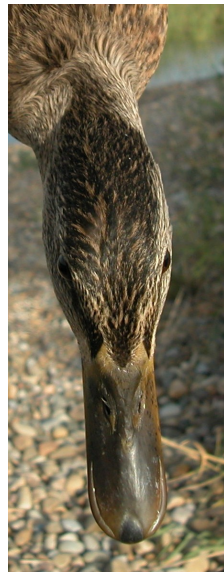
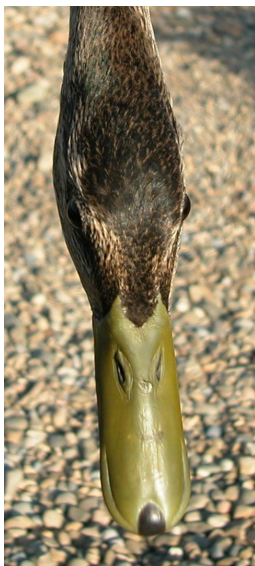
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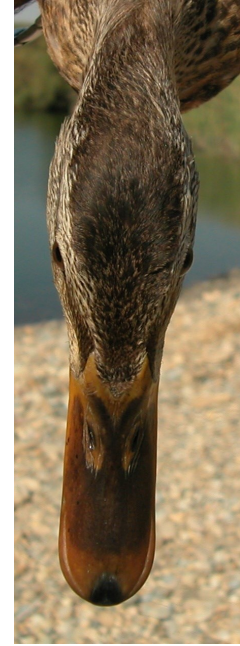
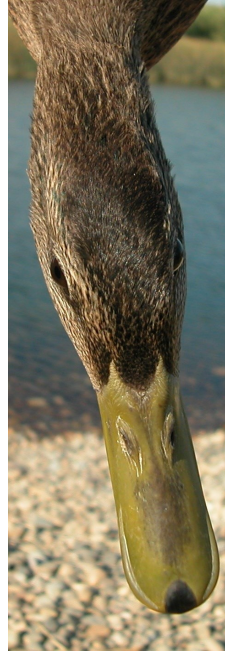
Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Pattern of head and bill: top male (04-VIII); bottom female (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 1st year. Pattern of head and bill: top male (26-VII); bottom female (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Pattern of crown and bill: left male (04-VIII); right female (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 1st year. Pattern of crown and bill: left male (26-VII); right female (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Breast pattern: top male (04-VIII); bottom female (09-VIII).



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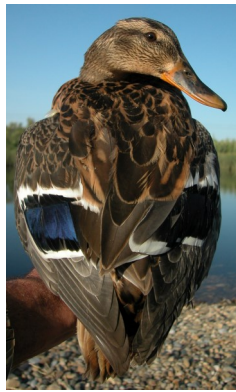
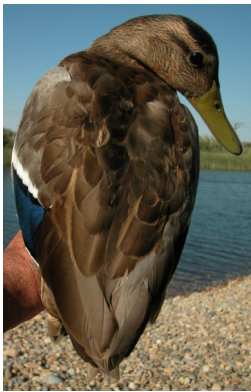
Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 1st year. Breast pattern: top male (26-VII); bottom female (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of flank (04-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult.



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (04-VIII); right female (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 1st year. Male: pattern of flank (26-VII).



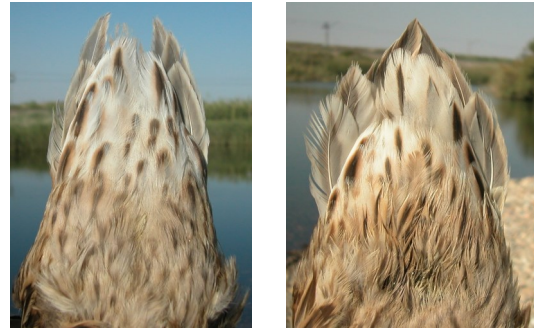
Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 1st year. Upperpart pattern: left male (26-VII); right female (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 1st year. Female: pattern of flank (09-VIII).



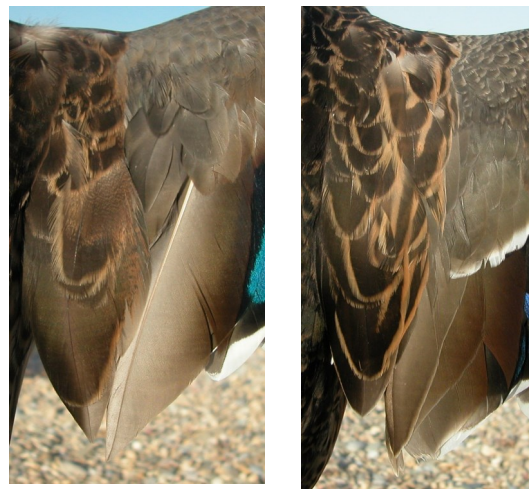
Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Tail pattern: left male (04-VIII); right female (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 1st year. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (26-VII); right female (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 1st year. Tail pattern: left male (26-VII); right female (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Pattern of tertials: left male (04-VIII); right female (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (04-VIII); right female (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 1st year. Pattern of tertials: left male (26-VII); right female (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of speculum (04-VIII).



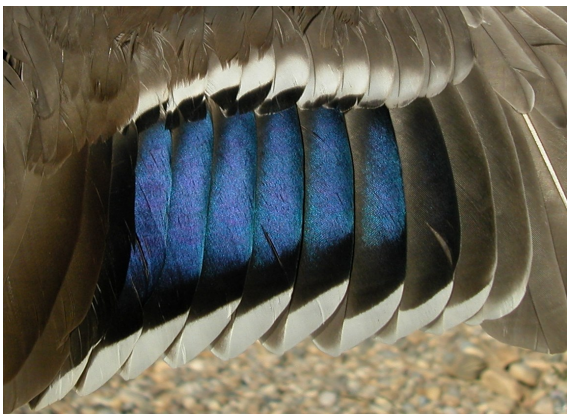
Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 1st year. Female: pattern of speculum (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Female: pattern of speculum (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of tips of greater coverts 1 to 6 (04-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 1st year. Male: pattern of speculum (26-VII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Female: pattern of tips of greater coverts 1 to 6 (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 1st year. Male: pattern of tips of greater coverts 1 to 6 (26-VII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 1st year. Female: pattern of tips of greater coverts 1 to 6 (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of primaries (04-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Female: pattern of primaries (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 1st year. Male: pattern of primaries (26-VII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 1st year. Female: pattern of primaries (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of secondaries (04-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Female: pattern of secondaries (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 1st year. Male: pattern of secondaries (26-VII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 1st year. Female: pattern of secondaries (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (04-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (09-VIII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 1st year. Male: pattern of wing (26-VII).



Mallard. Summer. Non-breeding plumage. 1st year.
Female: pattern of wing (09-VIII).