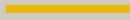


Fall Ducks

4

Primary classification groups for ducks include:

Unlike many songbirds that spend the fall heading for the tropics ahead of the cold weather, many duck species spend the winter in New England. From the end of September to mid-November, you can spot drake (male) waterfowl in their most colorful breeding plumage. In addition to the Connecticut River and Newburyport Harbor, Jamaica Pond in Boston and plenty of Plymouth County ponds host a variety of species in autumn.



27

Species that are regularly present in Massachusetts during the fall or winter, depending on the weather.

18

Species of ducks that dive under the water for their dinner; another 9 species tip-up in shallow water or obtain their food from the surface or on land. What ducks feed upon often depends on the time of year or the habitat that they are seasonally using, but often includes fish, mollusks, or plants.

2

Massachusetts-nesting species, the Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser, routinely nest in hollow tree cavities or nest boxes. Most other ducks build nests made of their own down on the ground.

50

feet is the height that Wood Duck ducklings can readily jump from their nests without injury.

12

Species of ducks that breed in Massachusetts; however, several of these are local and unusual nesters (e.g., Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Duck) that only nest at National Wildlife Refuges such as Parker River and Monomoy.



surface-feeding ducks (Mallard, Northern Pintail, teals),



sea ducks (Eiders, Scoters, Goldeneyes, mergansers),



bay ducks/diving ducks (Ring-necked Duck, Scaups),



and stiff-tailed ducks (Ruddy Duck).