

MALLARD

ANAS PLATYRHYNCHOS

DISTINGUISHING MARKS:

The largest of our wild ducks. Mallards have a distinctive blue patch of color on their wings called a speculum.

The male, called a drake, has green shimmering black head, dark reddish brown chest and narrow, white collar in its full dress. Female is varied brown. Length 55-65 cm, wingspan approximately 95 cm, weight 900-1500 g.

PREVALENCE:

Nests commonly in all kinds of watercourses all over Finland.

HABITAT:

All kinds of watercourses as well in bare as flourishing waters, equally on the remote forest lakes as in the parks of the cities. At wintertime gathers often to the parks and by the waters which are not frozen.

LIFESTYLE:

Swims like halfdivers high and rises straight from the water on its wings. During mating time male ducks present complicated courtship, while females follow from a distance. In the city conditions mallards are easily tamable.

FOOD:

Water plants, insects and other little animals.

BREEDING:

The nest is in deep grass or under a bush. It's padded with down and usually near the shore. Greenish eggs 7- 12, which female bathes for 26- 27 days. Female takes care of the nest and chicks alone and guides them to find food. Chicks fly at the age of 7- 8 weeks.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE POPULATION:

Mallard is the most common waterfowl in the Southern and Central Finland. Approximate amount of mallards in Finland is 150 000 - 200 000 couples.

HUNTING:

Hunting season in the whole country lasts from the end of August to the end of November. Otherwise closed season.

