

# Spring Tales Newsletter

## Dabbler vs. Diver!



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Ducks can be put into two groups. One group is called Dabblers, and the other is called Divers! Both groups have special adaptations that help them survive in their habitats.

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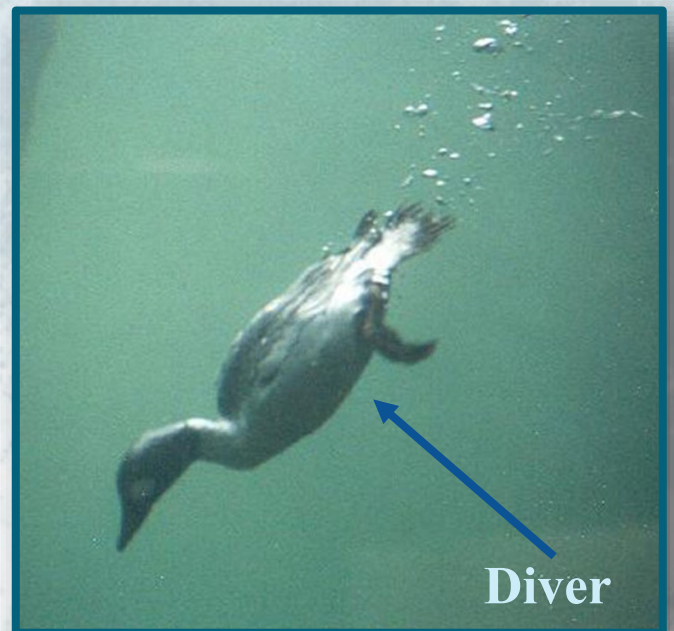
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Dabbling ducks like to bob for food in shallow water or search for something to eat on land.



Diving ducks like to dive deep under water in order to find and catch food.



# Dabbler vs. Diver

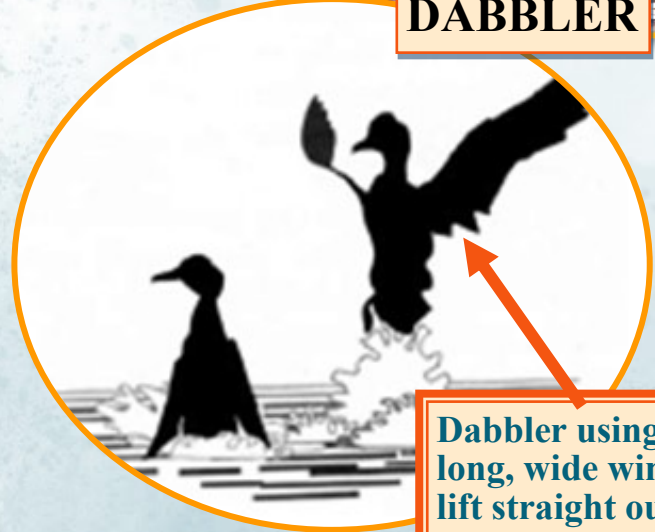
**D**abbling ducks like to stick to finding food in shallow waters or on land. To help them do this, they have smaller feet, which are located closer to the center of its body. This allows them to walk better and tip over in the water more easily to get food. To help float on the water, dabblers trap air between its feathers. Because dabbler's wings are wide and long, they are able to shoot straight up out of the water when they want to take off.

Blue-Winged Teal



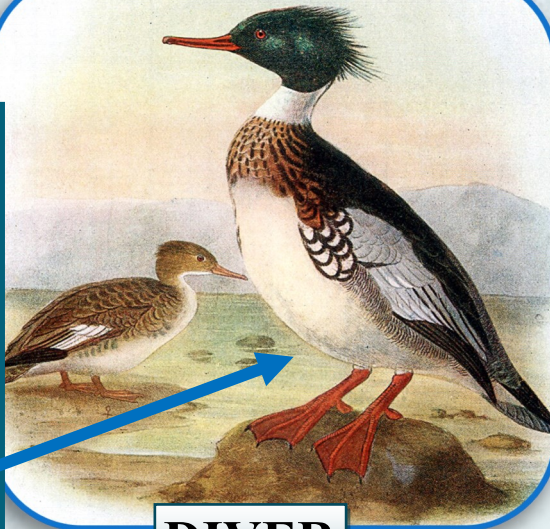
**LOOK**  
how this  
Dabbler's  
feet are  
towards  
the center  
of its  
body.

**DABBLER**



Dabbler using its  
long, wide wings to  
lift straight out of the  
water!  
**3, 2, 1, BLAST OFF!**

Red-Breasted Merganser



**LOOK**  
how far  
back this  
Diver's feet  
are and  
how  
straight it  
can stand  
up!

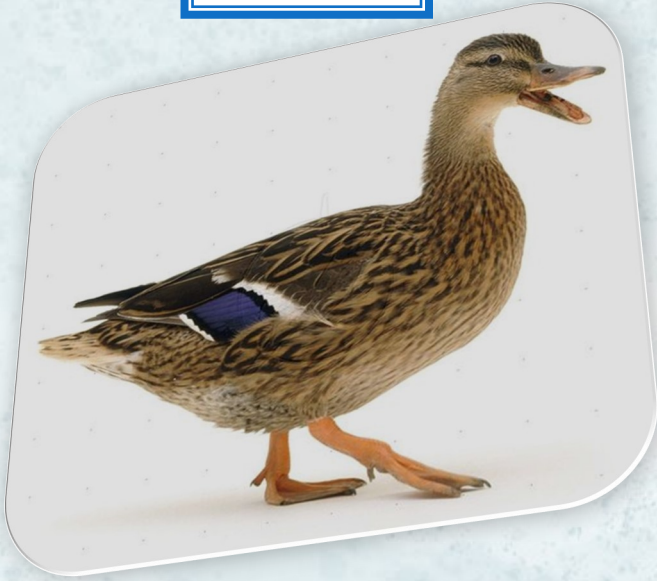
**DIVER**



**Diver getting a running start before taking off! RUN  
RUN RUN, FLAP FLAP FLAP! You can do it!**

**D**iving ducks have larger feet than dabblers. Its feet are located more towards the back of the body to help them swim deep under water where food likes to hide. This also helps them stand more straight up compared to a dabbler. Divers have smaller, more compact wings that they squeeze tight against their body to remove air trapped between its feathers to allow them to dive. Unfortunately though, those wings don't help with taking off, which means they need a longer runway. They have to get a running start and almost look like a plane that is too heavy trying to get airborne.

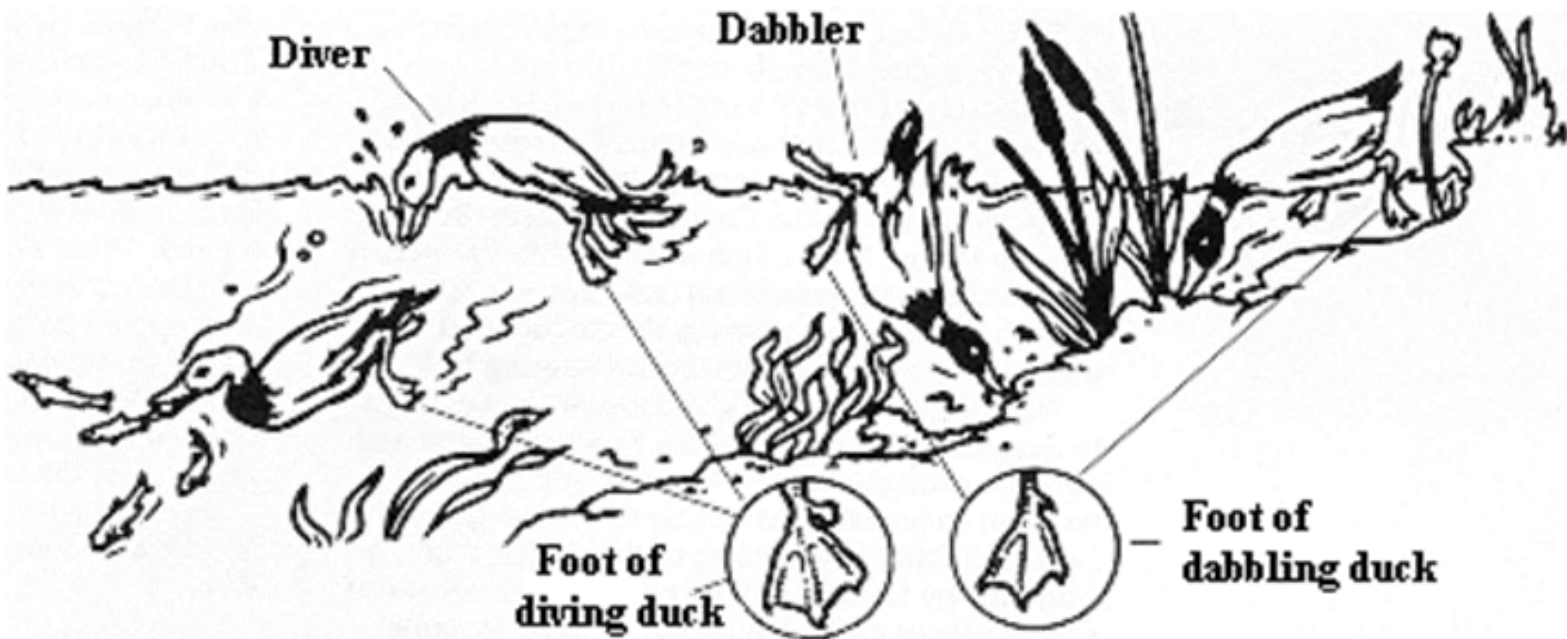
**Hen Mallard**



## Did you know?

Not all ducks quack! Female mallard ducks make that classic “quack” everyone knows. Most other ducks do not quack though. Instead they make other sounds, such as whistles, squeals, cooing, yodels and grunts.

**Color these dabblers and divers as they search for food!**



**Fun Fact:** Ducks are omnivorous and opportunistic eaters, which means they eat whatever food they might come across. This could be grass, fish, aquatic plants, insects, crustaceans, fruit or a variety of other types of food.



# DABBLER VS. DIVER WORD SCRAMBLE!

Unscramble the words below:

1. ARLLDMA

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2. CKQAU

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3. OOFD

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4. LBABDRE

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5. UDKC

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6. VREID

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7. AWRTE

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8. BTIATHA

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NORTHERN SHOVELER

Answers: 1. MALLARD 2. QUACK 3. FOOD 4. DABBLER 5. DUCK 6. DIVER 7. WATER 8. HABITAT

For more information on our education programs or to get involved, contact Molly Maupin, Education Coordinator at (916) 648-1406 Ext. 102 or [mmaupin@calwaterfowl.org](mailto:mmaupin@calwaterfowl.org)

For more information and our calendar of events go to [www.calwaterfowl.org](http://www.calwaterfowl.org)