

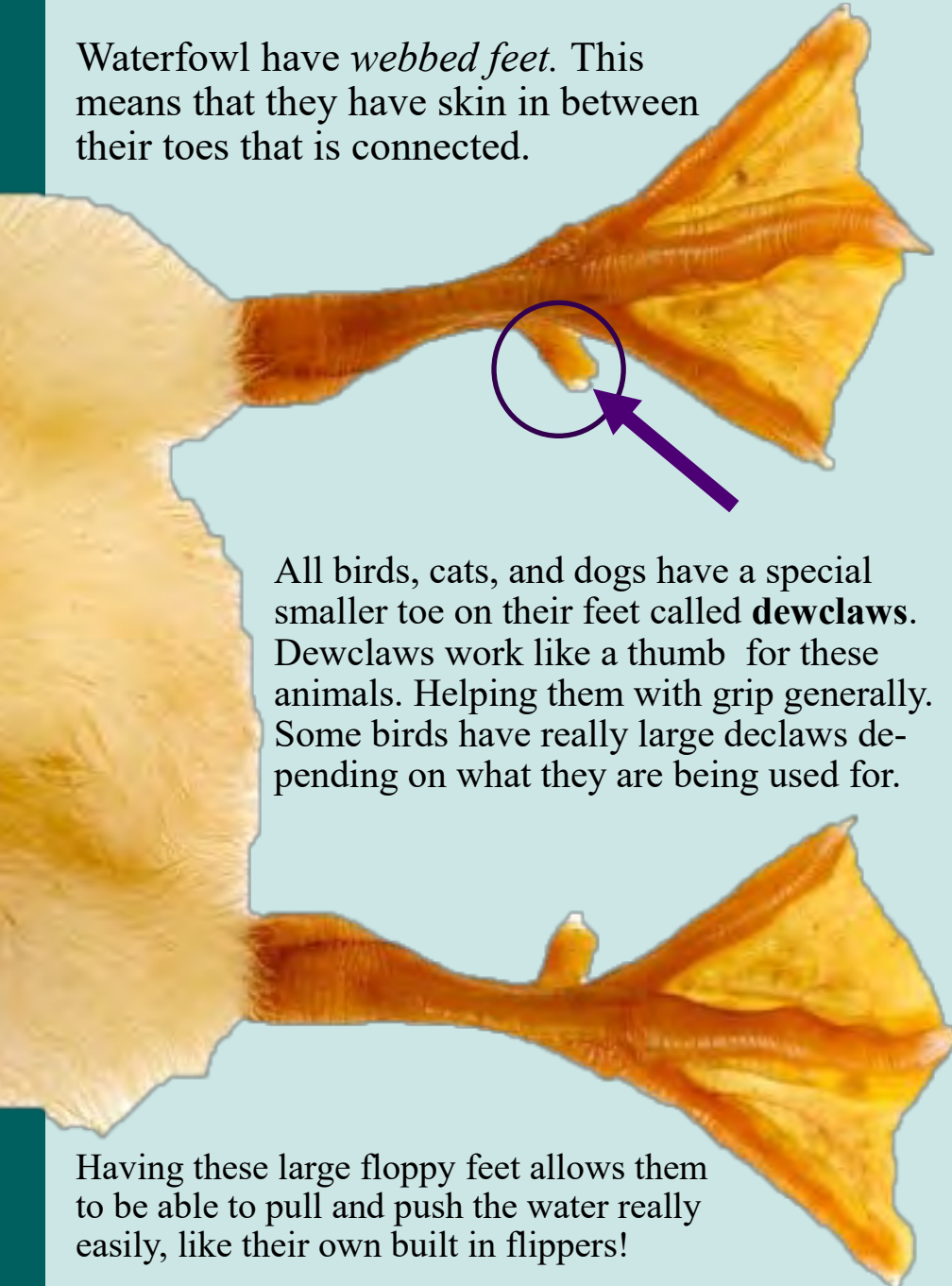


Spring Tales

Newsletter

Wonders of Waterfowl

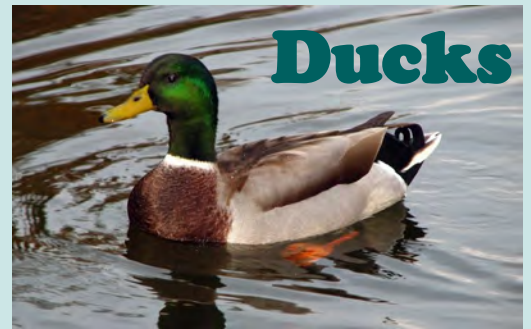
Waterfowl have *webbed feet*. This means that they have skin in between their toes that is connected.



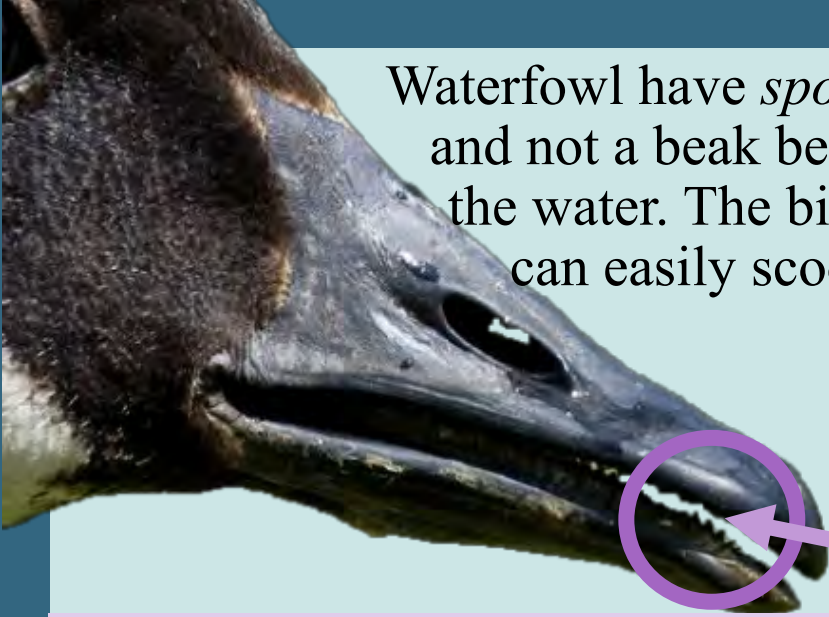
All birds, cats, and dogs have a special smaller toe on their feet called **dewclaws**. Dewclaws work like a thumb for these animals. Helping them with grip generally. Some birds have really large dewclaws depending on what they are being used for.

Having these large floppy feet allows them to be able to pull and push the water really easily, like their own built in flippers!

The 3 different birds that are considered waterfowl are:



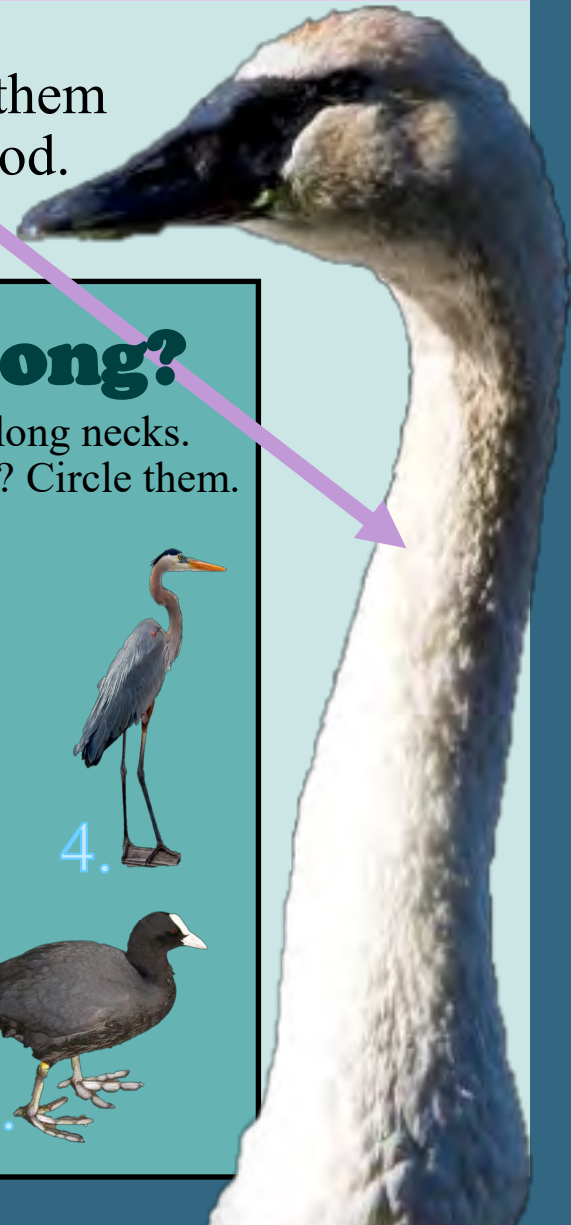
Waterfowl have *spoon-shaped bills*. We call it a bill and not a beak because they get their food out of the water. The bill is round at the end so that they can easily scoop up water, small invertebrates, and vegetation.



Waterfowl have small tooth-like structures on the inside of their bills that help them sift through the water called **lamellae**.

Lamellae help waterfowl keep the food they want in their mouths, and push out the excess water.

Waterfowl also have *long necks* to help them reach down into the water to collect food.



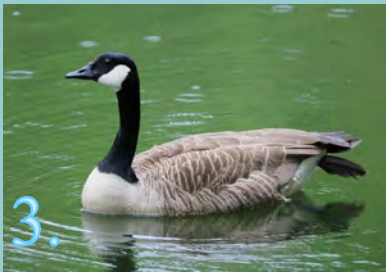
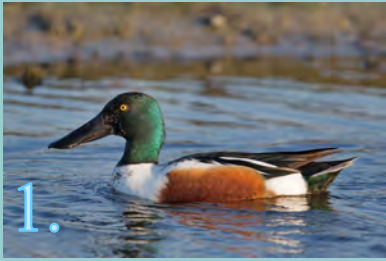
Which one does not belong?

Waterfowl have webbed feet, spoon-shaped bills, and long necks. Which of the birds below are NOT considered waterfowl? Circle them.



Waterfowl Identification Practice

Do you think you know your waterfowl? Draw a line from the picture of the waterfowl to its name. When you are done, check your answer below.



A. Tundra Swan

B. Canada Goose

C. Hooded Merganser

D. American Wigeon

E. Cinnamon Teal

F. Northern Pintail

G. Mallard

H. Snow Goose

I. Northern Shoveler

J. Trumpeter Swan



Check Your Answers: 1. Northern Shoveler (I), 2. Northern Pintail (F), 3. Canada Goose (B), 4. Trumpeter Swan (J), 5. American Wigeon (D), 6. Snow Goose (H), 7. Hooded Merganser (C), 8. Cinnamon Teal (E), 9. Mallard (G), 10. Tundra Swan (A)

How did you do? Add up your score to see what kind of expert you are!

0-3 Right = Waterfowl Wannabe—You are just starting to get to know your waterfowl.

4-6 Right = Waterfowl Wingman—You know quite a few species! Keep working on it!

7-9 Right = Waterfowl Wizard—You are practically an expert! Keep up the good work!

10 Right = Waterfowl Whisperer—You really know your stuff! You are a true expert!



What are baby swans called?

Solve the cryptogram below to reveal the answer.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
13	8	11	7	4	12	5	6	2	17	25	18	15

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
24	26	23	19	9	16	10	21	14	1	3	22	20

11 22 5 24 4 10 16

Answer: Cygnets

For more information on our education programs or to get involved,
 contact Molly Maupin, Education Coordinator at (916) 648-1406 Ext. 121 or mmaupin@calwaterfowl.org

For more information and our calendar of events go to www.calwaterfowl.org

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