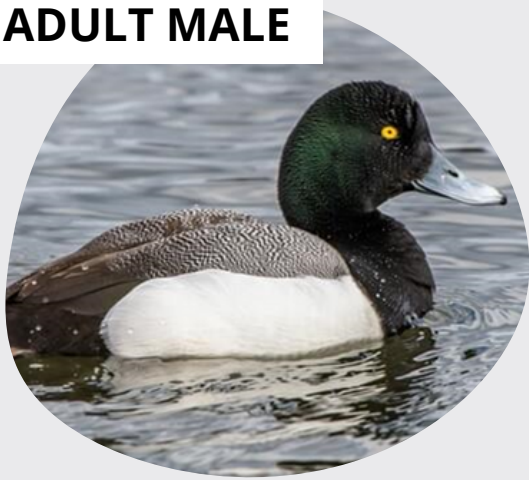


**ADULT MALE**



**ADULT FEMALE**



**IN FLIGHT**



**BREEDING PAIR**

2025 ART COMPETITION SPECIES:

# GREATER SCAUP

*(AYTHYA MARILA)*

## FAMILY

Anatidae

## ABOUT

The Greater Scaup is a medium-sized diving duck that can be found in lakes and ponds across North America and Europe. Greater Scaups breed in tundra regions and are the only circumpolar diving ducks. Males can be identified by a dark head, chest and rear, with contrasting white sides and a grey back. Although they have greenish, iridescent head feathers, they are only recognizable under specific light conditions. Both males and females have rounded heads and a sharp yellow eye. Females, unlike the males, are brown in colour with some white colourations on the head around the bill. From a distance, the Greater Scaup is almost unrecognizable alongside the Lesser Scaup. Upon close inspection, the Greater Scaup has a rounded head, whereas the Lesser Scaup has a more peaked head shape.

## HABITAT

Greater Scaups are ground-nesting birds that build saucer-shaped nests on the edge of lakes and ponds made of grasses and down feathers produced by the females. They often prefer treeless wetland habitat for breeding and use large lakes during migration. In Canada, they can be found in the shallow waters of The Great Lakes along their migratory path where they feed on aquatic invertebrates such as mollusks, insects and crustaceans, as well as plants and seeds.

## CONSERVATION STATUS

The official conservation status of the Greater Scaup is Common Bird in Steep Decline. Although the global population is estimated at 780,000, the population is rapidly declining having lost more than 50% of their population in the last 40 years. Multiple factors are to blame for this decline, including warming and contaminated waters, pollution, habitat loss and hunting.

## References

[https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Greater\\_Scaup/overview](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Greater_Scaup/overview)

## Photo Credits (from top to bottom)

- 1: [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Greater\\_Scaup/id](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Greater_Scaup/id)
- 2: [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Greater\\_Scaup/id](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Greater_Scaup/id)
- 3: [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Greater\\_Scaup/id](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Greater_Scaup/id)
- 4: [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Greater\\_Scaup/lifehistory](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Greater_Scaup/lifehistory)

2025 ART COMPETITION SPECIES:  
**GREATER SCAUP**  
*(AYTHYA MARILA)*



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