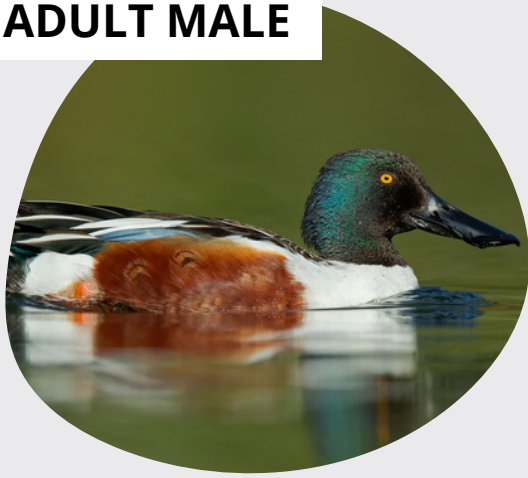
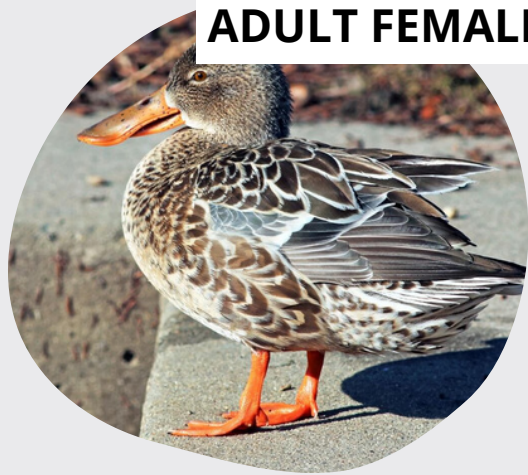


ADULT MALE



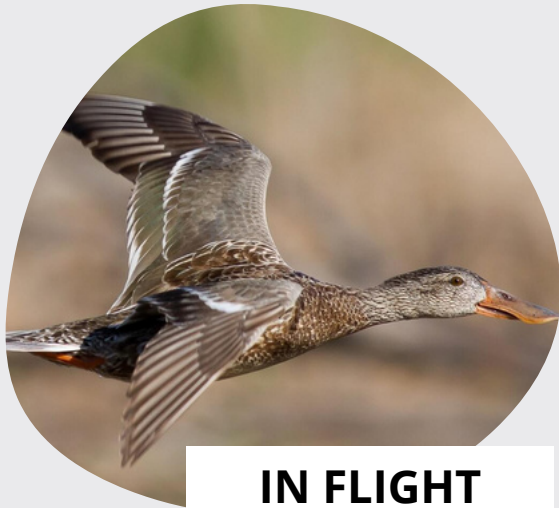
ADULT FEMALE



IN FLIGHT



IN FLIGHT



2026 ART COMPETITION SPECIES:

NORTHERN SHOVELER

(SPATULA CLYPEATA)

FAMILY

Anatidae

ABOUT

The Northern Shoveler is a medium-sized dabbling duck that can be found in marshes across North America including Mexico and parts of the Caribbean and beyond that, as far as Europe, Africa and India. Northern Shovelers have a large breeding area across Canada and the United States, but in Canada primarily breed in the Prairie Pothole Region of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Breeding males can be identified by a green head, black beak and yellow eyes, with reddish brown flanks, a white chest, and black back. Both males and females have a distinctive wide and long bill which they use to filter food from the water. Females are mottled brown in colour with a powdery blue shoulder pad that is sometimes visible at rest. Her orange bill and legs are prominent.

HABITAT

Northern Shovelers are ground-nesting birds that dig shallow nests on the edges of wetlands. Outside of breeding season, they can be found foraging in a wide array of wetland habitat. In Canada, they can be found in shallow waters from the east to west coast filtering out small invertebrates, crustaceans and seeds through their uniquely shaped bill.

CONSERVATION STATUS

The official conservation status of the Northern Shoveler is Least Concern. The global breeding population is estimated at 5.9 million, though in Canada it is listed as a species for conservation/stewardship in several Bird Conservation Regions.

References

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Shoveler/overview

<https://wildlife-species.canada.ca/bird-status/oiseau-bird-eng>

Photo Credits (from top to bottom)

- 1: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Shoveler/photo-gallery/300124811
- 2: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Shoveler/photo-gallery/300124811
- 3: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Shoveler/photo-gallery/300124811
- 4: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Shoveler/photo-gallery/300124811

2026 ART COMPETITION SPECIES:
NORTHERN SHOVELER
(SPATULA CLYPEATA)

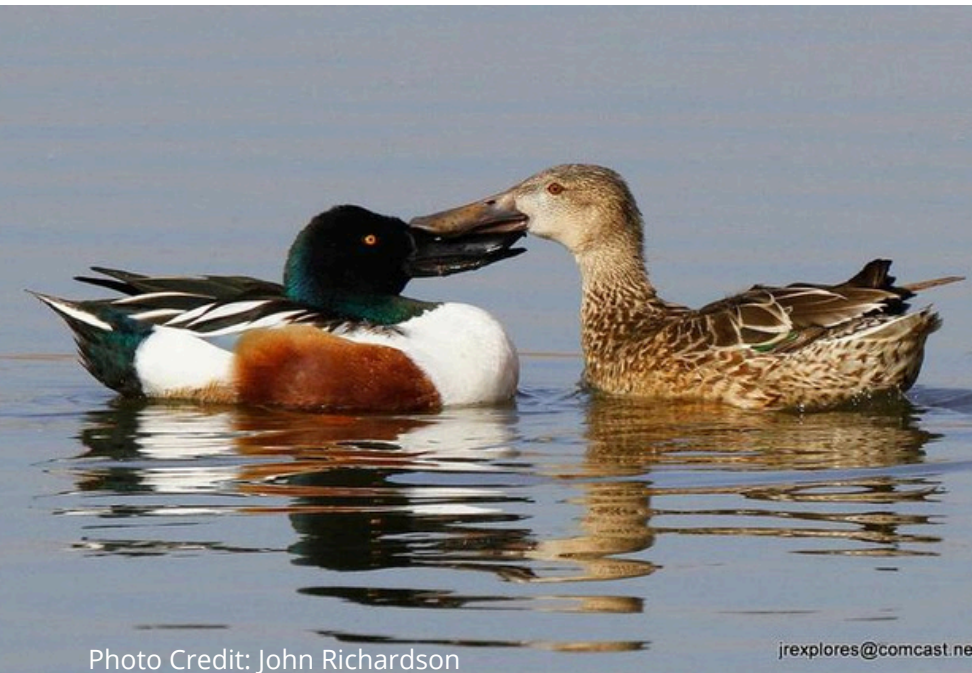


Photo Credit: John Richardson

jrexplores@comcast.net



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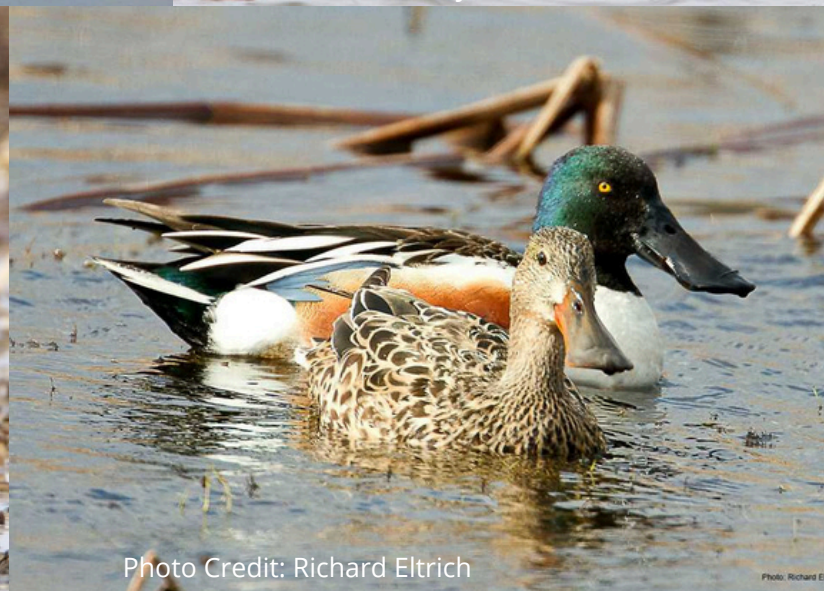


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