

WETLANDS EXPLORERS CLUB



Ducks: The Dabblers and Divers

Are all ducks the same?

All ducks have webbed feet and spend most of their time in the water. They do not all behave the same, though!

Some ducks **dabble** upside down, and some ducks **dive** underwater. This is how they find food.

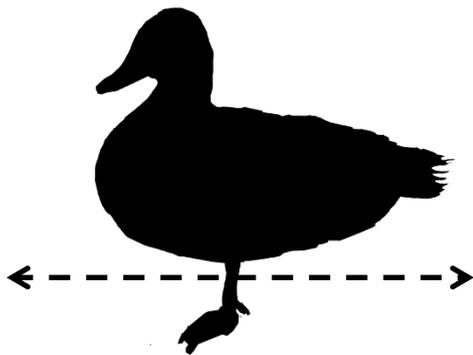
[Watch this video](#) to see some of the dabbling and diving ducks that spend their winter migration at Wetlands Park.

LESSON

When a duck is standing still, you can tell if it dabbles or dives by the position of its legs and whether it is upright.

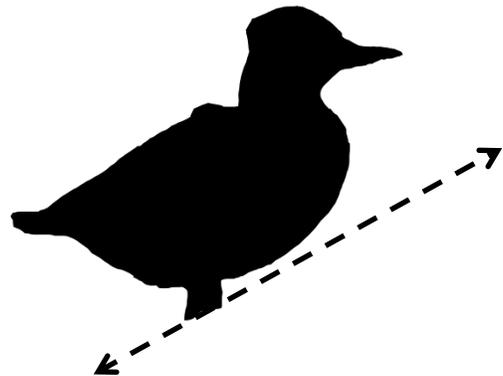
Mallards dabble.

Their legs are closer to the middle of their bodies and they stand level with the ground.



Ring-necked ducks dive.

Their legs are closer to the tail end of their bodies and they stand more upright.



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A great place at Wetlands Park to do today's activity: [Big Weir Bridge](#)

Observe the birds in the Las Vegas Wash, or go [back to the video](#).

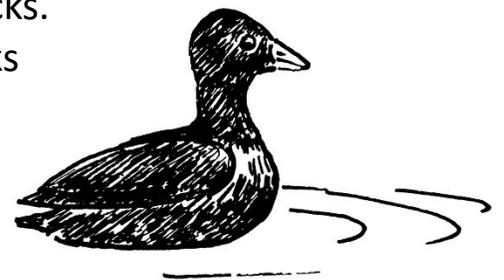
1. Count what you see. How many birds do you see that are diving, and how many are dabbling? Tally them here by making a | mark for each one:

Dabbling	Diving

ACTIVITY

2. Are all the birds you see ducks? There are other water birds nearby that are not ducks! Can you spot an American Coot from the bridge or in the video?

Coots are black water birds with a white bill. They do not have webbed feet and are not ducks. They are in the Rail family of birds. Unlike ducks that gracefully glide through the water, Coots move their heads when they swim.



Takeaway... A question for today:

How many dabbling ducks did you see? [Click here to answer.](#)



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Just for Fun

Carefully cut along the blue dotted line.

Color the duck and the drawing of the pond.

Cut out the square for the duck, then tape a stick to the back.

Using the stick, push the duck through your cut line so it "swims" in the pond. Tilt the stick to make it "dabble"!

