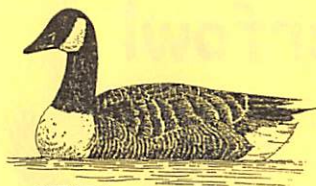


Liberty State Park's location along the Atlantic Flyway makes it an important wintering ground for many species of birds. The brackish waters of the Hudson River Estuary rarely freeze providing an ideal habitat.

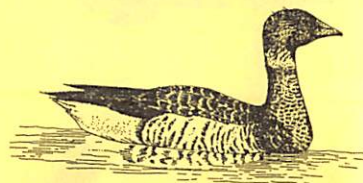
This brochure describes most of the common winter waterfowl seen in Liberty State Park. For a complete bird species checklist or to find out about our schedule of programs, stop by, call or email the Nature Interpretive Center at (201) 915-3409 or lspic@verizon.net.



Canada Goose
(*Branta canadensis*) 25-43"

Our most common goose, frequently seen eating grass in fields, swimming in the estuary or flying over in a "V" formation. Look for the brownish breast, black neck and white cheek.

Habitat: fields, pond, river



Brant
(*Branta bernicla*) 22-26"

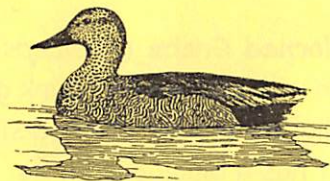
Smaller than the Canada goose and may also be seen eating in the grass or swimming in the estuary. Look for a black breast, neck and head and white feathers near the tail. Mature brant also have a white "necklace".

Habitat: fields, pond, river

Gadwall
(*Anas strepera*) 19-23"

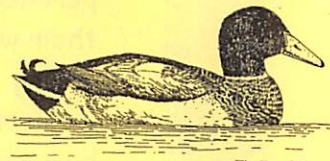
The male is a very gray duck with a black rump and white patch on the rear edge of the wing. The female is a mottled brown with yellow feet and yellow on the bill.

Habitat: pond, marsh, river



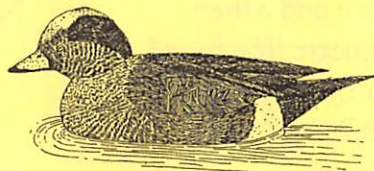
Mallard
(*Anas platyrhynchos*) 20-28"

The male is easily recognized by his glossy green head and white neck-ring. Males will also have a yellowish bill and orange feet. The female is a mottled brown with an or-



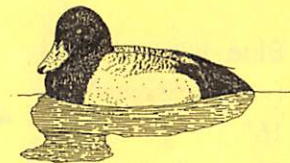
American Wigeon (*Anas americana*) 18-23"
The male is a grayish brown with a distinct white cap. The female is brown with a gray head. Both have a bluish bill.

Habitat: pond, marsh, river



Scaup
Greater Scaup
(*Aythya marila*) 16-20"
Lesser Scaup
(*Aythya affinis*) 15-18"

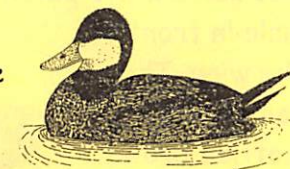
The Greater and Lesser Scaup are extremely difficult to distinguish. The Greater have a green rounded head vs. the Lesser's purple pointed one. Males of both species tend to be black at both ends with white to gray in the middle. The females are brown with white near the bill. All have blue bills with black tips. **Habitat:** river



Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) 15-16"

In the winter the male is gray with a white cheek and black cap. In summer, males turn a rusty red and the bill turns a bright blue. The female looks very similar to the male in winter but her white cheek will have a dark line through it. They often sit in the water with their tail sticking up vertically.

Habitat: pond, marsh, river



Bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*) 19-23"

The male is mostly white with a black back. The head is black with a large white "U" shape. The female is dark gray with a white spot on the cheek just behind the eye. **Habitat:** pond, marsh, river



Blue-winged Teal
(*Anas discors*) 15-16"

The male is mostly gray with a white crescent between the bill and eye. The female is a mottled brown. Both have a blue wing patch.

Habitat: pond, marsh

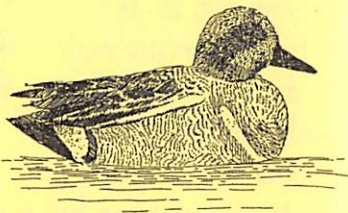


Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca*) 15-16"

Males are gray with a brown head and a green patch visible in the sunlight. You may also see a white patch on the side of the male in front of the wing. The female is a mottled brown.

Both have a green wing

patch. **Habitat:** pond, marsh



Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) 12-15"

In winter look for dark gray on top with a slightly lighter colored side.

It has a black cap on its head, thin bill and whitish neck. **Habitat:** river



Double-crested Cormorant

(*Phalacrocorax auritus*) 33"



A large black water bird that dives and swims underwater hunting fish.

They are often seen perched on posts with their wings spread while drying. Adults may have a colorful face and often have green eyes.

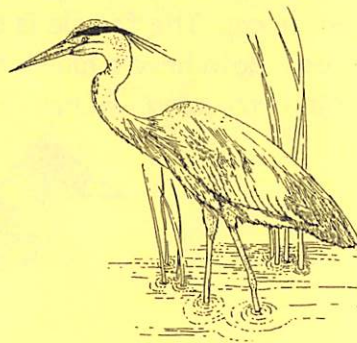
Habitat: river

Great Blue Heron

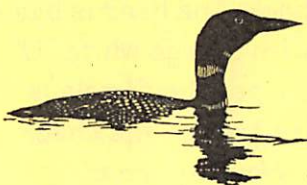
(*Ardea herodias*) 42-52"

A large, lean bird that may stand four feet tall. Great blue herons are blue-gray and are often seen in along the shoreline vegetation. They will spend the winter here feeding on fish and other aquatic life found in the estuary.

Habitat: pond, marsh



Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) 28-36"

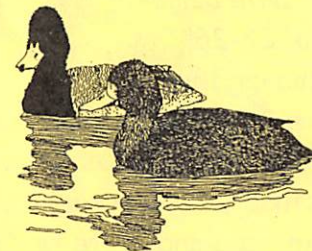
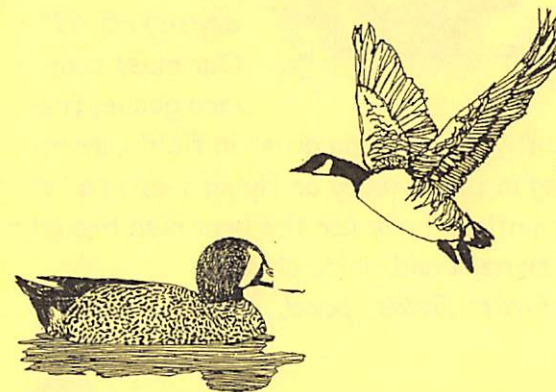


Loons are large, long, low-swimming birds often seen diving underwater.

In winter they are dark gray above and whitish below. **Habitat:** pond, river

LIBERTY STATE PARK

Common Winter Waterfowl



NJ Department of Environmental
Protection
Division of Parks & Forestry
State Park Service

