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Ducks, Geese, and Swans of the World by Paul A.
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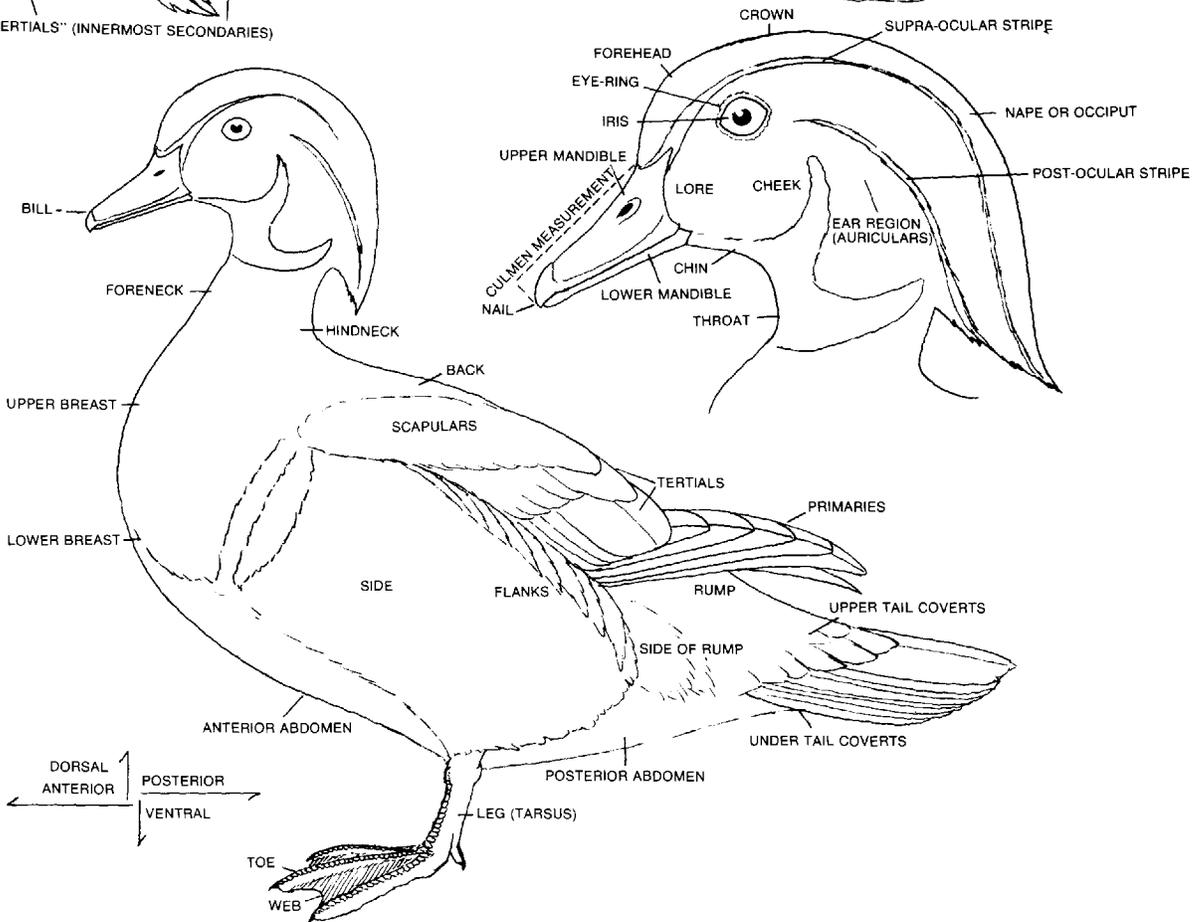
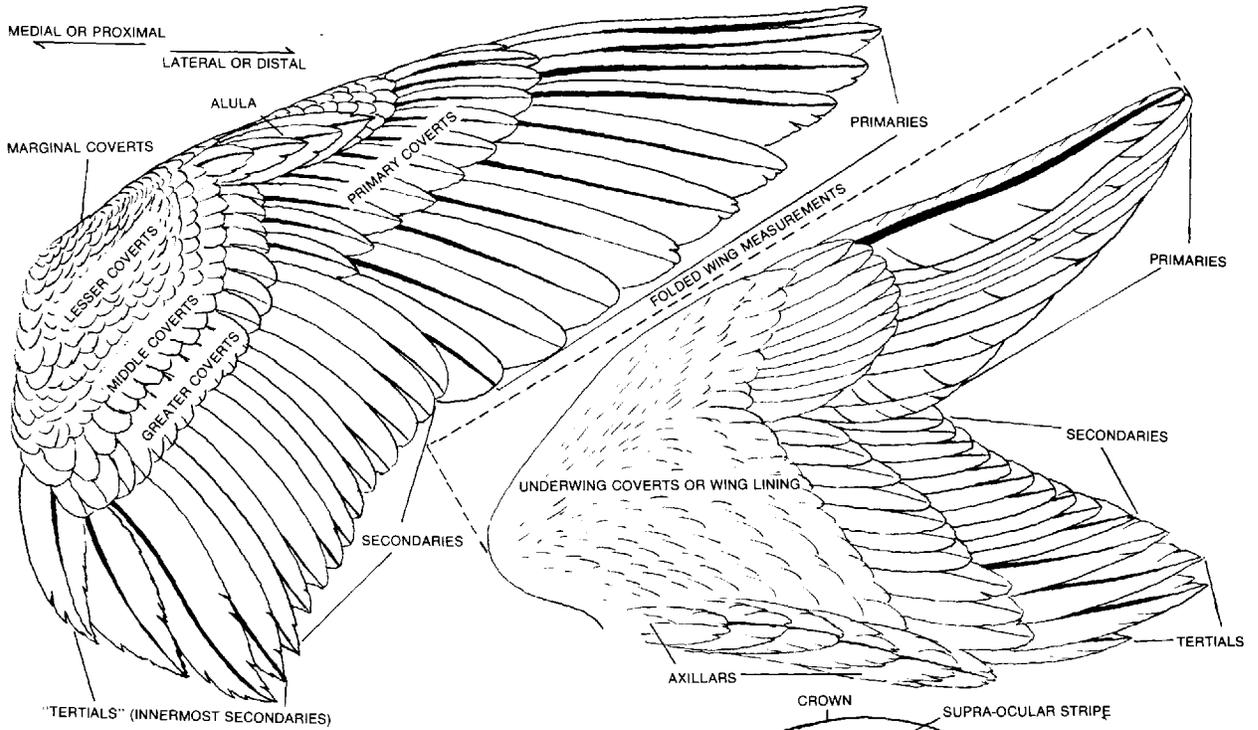


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Glossary and Vernacular Name Derivations

- Amphipoda:** the order of crustaceans that includes the animals called sand fleas and scuds.
- Anatidae:** the family of birds that includes ducks, geese, and swans.
- Anhimidae:** the family of birds that includes the screamers.
- Anseriformes:** the order of birds that includes the families Anatidae and Anhimidae.
- Arthropoda:** the phylum of animals that includes insects, crustaceans, and other “jointed-legged” invertebrates.
- Austral:** southern or southerly.
- Baer:** the Siberian white-eye, or Baer pochard, was named in honor of M. Baer, the 19th-century German ornithologist.
- Barrow:** the Barrow goldeneye was named in honor of Sir John Barrow (1764–1848), one-time secretary to the British Admiralty.
- Bernier:** the Madagascan or Bernier teal was named in honor of a ship surgeon associated with a French natural history expedition to Madagascar in the 1830s.
- Bewick:** the Bewick swan was named in honor of Thomas Bewick (1753–1828), English engraver and naturalist.
- Billabong:** in Australia, a stagnant backwater, oxbow, or minor branch of a stream.
- Bill-down display:** a term applied to the post-copulatory display of many pochard species, in which the male swims away from the female in a strongly down-tilted head posture.
- Bivalve:** a mollusk with two valves, or shells, such as clams.
- Boreal:** northern or northerly.
- Brant:** the origin of this vernacular name (which is *brent* in Great Britain) is perhaps from the Welsh *brenig*, or from the Aristotelian *brenthos* or *brinthos*, an unknown bird.
- Bridling:** a term applied to a male display of some *Anas* species, involving a drawing of the head backward along the scapulars while calling.
- Brood:** collectively, the young hatched from a single clutch of eggs. Brooding refers to the act of tending a brood; double-brooding refers to the rearing of two broods in a single season.
- Bulla:** an inflated or bubblelike cavity associated with the syrinx in many male ducks.
- Bulrushes:** the inclusive name for plants such as tules and three-squares of the genus *Scirpus*, in the family Cyperaceae.
- Burping:** a term applied to a display of various *Anas* species, consisting of a vocalization accompanied by vertical neck stretching.
- Caruncle:** a fleshy enlargement of skin, usually on the head or neck.
- Cattails:** emergent and shoreline plants of the genus *Typha*, family Typhaceae, referred to as cumbungi in Australia.
- Cere:** a fleshy enlargement of the bill above the nostrils, and the basis for the generic name *Cereopsis*.
- Chiloé:** the name of the Chiloé wigeon refers to the island of Chiloé, off the coast of Chile.
- Cladocera:** the order of crustaceans that includes the animals called water fleas (*Daphnia*).
- Clutch:** the complete number of eggs laid by a single female and incubated simultaneously.
- Composite:** a member of the plant family Compositae, which includes asters, sunflowers, and similar forms.
- Conspecific:** a term meaning that two or more populations are or should be considered part of the same species.
- Coot:** a vernacular name properly restricted to species of the genus *Fulica*, family Rallidae, but sometimes inappropriately applied to scoters.
- Copepoda:** a subclass of the Crustacea, including many zooplanktonic organisms.
- Coscoroba:** this swan’s vernacular and generic name is derived from the species’ typical call.
- Cracidae:** that family of birds that includes chachalacas, guans, and curassows, within the order Galliformes.
- Crèche:** an assemblage of flightless young representing several families.
- Crustacean:** an animal of the class Crustacea, which includes crayfish, crabs, and their relatives.
- Decrescendo call:** a term applied to a female call of various *Anas* species that is characterized by a series of notes that descend in pitch and volume.
- Dimorphism:** occurring in two forms (such as sexual dimorphism), and including size and/or color differences.
- Display:** a term denoting movements and/or vocalizations

- that through evolution have come to serve as social signals.
- Duck:** this vernacular name comes from the Medieval English *duken*, "to dive," and has no taxonomic significance inasmuch as it has been applied to nearly all of the smaller species of Anatidae. It is also sometimes used in the sense of *female*, as in *duck* and *drake*.
- Duckweeds:** tiny stemless floating plants of the family Lemnaceae, mostly in the genus *Lemna*.
- Dump nesting:** the laying of eggs in a common nest by two or more females. Among waterfowl, it is difficult to distinguish from "parasitic nesting," the laying of one or more eggs by a female in another's nest, to be incubated by the latter.
- Eclipse:** the dull, femalelike plumage of male waterfowl assumed after the breeding season in some sexually dimorphic species; actually a highly abbreviated winter or nonbreeding plumage.
- Ecotone:** an ecological transition zone between two community types.
- Eider:** the vernacular names for this group of sea ducks is from the Icelandic *ejdar*, used there for the common eider.
- Electrophoresis:** the separation of a mixture of particles in a fluid medium under the influence of an electric field.
- Endemic:** a species or other taxon that is native and restricted to a particular area.
- Ericad:** a plant of the heather family Ericaceae.
- Erythristic:** a rufous or reddish plumage variation.
- Estuarine:** associated with an estuary, where a river joins the sea.
- Extirpation:** the local elimination of a population from an area, as distinct from extinction, the total elimination of a population.
- Eyton:** the plumed or Eyton whistling duck was named for and by T. C. Eyton, 19th-century English ornithologist (1809–80).
- Falcated:** sickle-shaped, like the elongated and decurved tertial feathers found on falcated ducks.
- Family:** a taxonomic category that represents a subdivision of an order and a grouping of related genera, identified by the suffix *idae*.
- Feral:** existing in a free-living state following escape from captivity or domestication.
- Ferruginous:** the color of rusty iron.
- Fischer:** the spectacled, or Fischer, eider was named in honor of J. Fischer von Waldheim, German and later Russian scientist.
- Fledging period:** the period between hatching and initial flight in birds.
- Flightless period:** the period between the molting of the flight feathers and their regrowth, during which flight is impossible in adult waterfowl.
- Form:** a taxonomically neutral term for a species or some subdivision of a species.
- Forb:** a general term for a broad-leaved herbaceous plant.
- Fulvous:** dull yellowish brown, tawny.
- Fuscous:** dark brownish gray to brownish black.
- Galliformes:** the order of birds that includes pheasants, partridges, quails, and other "gallinaceous" birds.
- Genus (plural, genera):** a taxonomic category representing a grouping of related species.
- Goose:** this vernacular name comes from the Medieval English *goos* or *gos*; *gosling* refers to a baby goose. The term has no taxonomic significance, since it has been applied to the typical geese (*Anser* and *Branta*), but also to the magpie goose and various true ducks such as pygmy geese.
- Goosander:** this word is probably derived from the Old Norse *Gas* and *ønd*, meaning goose-duck.
- Grunt-whistle:** a term applied to a display of some *Anas* species, involving a scooping upward of water by the bill, usually accompanied by a vocalization.
- Halophytic:** refers to plants adapted to life in highly saline soils.
- Hartlaub:** the Hartlaub duck was named in honor of Dr. Gustav Hartlaub, 19th-century German ornithologist.
- Head-throw:** a term applied to a display of some pochards and sea ducks, involving a backward tossing of the head while calling.
- Head-up-tail-up:** a term applied to a display of some *Anas* species, involving a simultaneous stretching of the neck and cocking of the tail while calling.
- Herbaceous:** a term applied to nonwoody plants, or herbs.
- Hectare:** an area of 10,000 square meters, equivalent to 2.47 acres.
- Heterozygotic:** of mixed genetic origin; carrying two alleles at the same locus on a pair of homologous chromosomes.
- Home range:** an area occupied by but not necessarily defended by a pair or family during a particular period or throughout the year.
- Hydrophyte:** a plant adapted to growing in water.
- Immature:** the age class in birds that follows the juvenile period but precedes sexual maturity; used in this book for species that do not become sexually mature in their first year of life and thus usually have a distinct subadult plumage.
- Inciting:** functional or ritualized threatening movements and/or calls of female ducks, associated with the formation and maintenance of pair bonds.
- Incubation:** the application of heat to an egg by an adult bird; the incubation period is the period between the start of incubation and hatching.
- Insular:** having an island distribution.

Intergrade: to exhibit a gradual rather than discontinuous transition in traits of adjoining populations.

Isolating mechanism: properties of individuals that prevent successful interbreeding with individuals belonging to different populations.

Isopoda: an order of crustaceans that includes both terrestrial and aquatic forms.

Jaeger: raptorial gull-like birds of the family Stercorariidae.

Jheel: in India, a marsh, pool, or lake, particularly one left after inundation.

Juvenile: the age class in birds during which the juvenal plumage is carried, and in which initial flight (fledging) occurs.

Kinked-neck call: a term applied to a display of pochards, involving calling while stretching and bending the neck.

Lacustrine: associated with a lake.

Legumes: plants of the family Leguminosae, such as peas and beans.

Littoral: the tidal zone of the ocean; also applied to the shallow edges of a lake.

Maccoa: the vernacular name of the maccoa duck probably stems from the Afrikaans *kacaauw*, later *makou*, a term used for a kind of duck (*makou-eend*) and also the spur-winged goose (*makougans*).

Mantle: feathers of the back, including the scapulars and interscapulars.

Mast: acorns and similar nutlike fruits from trees.

Meller: the Meller duck was named in honor of Dr. C. Meller, an Englishman who discovered this species and collected the first specimens.

Mock drinking: a term applied to ritualized drinking; also called false drinking.

Mock preening: a term applied to a ritualized preening of the feathers.

Molt-migration: a migration undertaken prior to the postnuptial molt, to an area where the flightless period is passed.

Monotypic: a term applied to a taxonomic category that has only one unit in the category immediately subordinate to it, such as a tribe with only one genus.

Muskgrass: plants of the genus *Chara*, in the algae family Characeae, sometimes also called stonewort.

Nuptial: refers to the plumage in which pair formation or breeding occurs.

Ochraceous: the color of ochre, earthy yellow.

Order: a taxonomic category that represents a grouping of related families.

Ostracoda: a subclass of the Crustacea, including many small aquatic forms.

Pair bond: a prolonged individual association between a male and female in monogamous species, lasting either for a single breeding season or permanently.

Páramo: the moist, grassy, and shrubby zone above timberline in the northern Andes.

Phyletic: refers to the evolutionary history of a taxon.

Phyllopoda: a group of crustaceans having leaflike swimming feet that also serve as gills, such as fairy shrimp.

Phylum: a taxonomic category representing a major subdivision of the animal kingdom.

Plankton: small animals (zooplankton) and plants (phytoplankton) that float or drift in the water.

Pochard: a vernacular name applied to various species of the genera *Netta* and *Aythya*, probably derived from Low German *poken*, "to poke," or Old French *pochard*, "a drunkard."

Pondweeds: the inclusive name for a group of aquatic plants, primarily of the genus *Potamogeton*, in the family Potamogetonaceae.

Postnuptial: refers to the molt following the breeding season, during which the flight feathers are lost and the body feathers are also replaced.

Puna: the dry, grassy alpine zone of the central Andes.

Race: as used here, equivalent to subspecies; not necessarily the same as "form," a geographically definable population of unspecified taxonomic rank.

Radjah: the vernacular name of the radjah shelduck is apparently a variant of *rajah*, and is based on the specific name given the species by Garnot. The alternative name, *Burdekin duck*, is based on the name of a river in Queensland.

Renesting: a second or later attempt at nesting by a female whose initial nesting effort was a failure. Distinct from multiple brooding, the rearing of more than one brood per season.

Reticulate: having a fine network of scales on the tarsus.

Ross: the Ross goose was named in honor of Bernard Ross (1827-74), chief factor of the Hudson Bay Company.

Salvadori: the Salvadori duck was named in honor of Tomasso Salvadori (1835-1923), director of the Zoological Museum at Turin, Italy, and an authority on the birds of Papua, New Guinea.

Scaup: the vernacular name of this group of pochards is from the Old French *escalope* and the Old Dutch *schelpe*, referring to the mollusks on which the birds often feed.

Scutellate: having a vertically aligned series of scales on the front of the tarsus.

Sheldrake: this vernacular name refers to shelducks and sheldgeese inclusively, and is derived from the Medieval English *sheld*, and *drake*, a male duck.

Sedge: the vernacular name of a group of grasslike plants of the genus *Carex* in the family Cyperaceae.

Sneak: a term applied to a display of some pochards, in which the head and neck are lowered to or nearly to the water.

Species: a "kind" of organism, or more technically, a group or groups of actually or potentially interbreeding populations that are reproductively isolated from all other populations. The term *species* remains unchanged in the plural, and also refers to the taxonomic category below that of genus and above that of subspecies.

Speculum: a pattern of distinctive feather coloration on the wing, sometimes iridescent, usually involving the secondary feathers.

Steller: the Steller eider was named in honor of G. W. Steller (1709–46), a German naturalist who discovered this species.

Step-dance: a term applied a display in which a pair of birds tread water in parallel while variably raising one wing.

Sternum: the breastbone of birds, which in all waterfowl is deeply keeled.

Subadult: refers to a late plumage of immature birds that require more than one year to attain their adult or definitive plumage.

Subfamily: a subdivision of a family composed of one or more genera, and identified by the suffix *inae*.

Subspecies: a group of local populations of a species that occupies part of the species' range and differs taxonomically from other local populations; a geographic race.

Superspecies: two or more species with largely or entirely nonoverlapping ranges and that are clearly derived from a common ancestor but are too distinct to be considered conspecific.

Swan: this vernacular name is akin to the Medieval English *soun* and the Latin *sonore*, meaning to make a noise or sound. It is restricted in use to the species here included in the genera *Cygnus* and *Coscoroba*. The Latin *cygnus* is also the basis for *cygnet*, meaning a young swan.

Synonym: in taxonomy, referring to differing names proposed for the same taxon; in such cases the older, or "senior," synonym represents the valid name, provided that other conditions are met.

Syrinx: the sound-producing structure of the trachea in birds.

Tarn: term used in Scotland and England for a small mountain lake or pool.

Taxon (plural, taxa): a term for any category used in scientific classification (taxonomy), or for any particular example of such a category.

Teal: this vernacular name has no taxonomic significance, and has been applied to a variety of small ducks of varied ancestry; the word's origin is uncertain, but may be from the Dutch *telen* or *tele*, "to produce."

Territory: an area, either fixed (as around a nest) or moving (as around a mate or brood), that is defended by an individual or pair from incursion by other individuals of the species.

Tiaga: the boreal or northern coniferous forest.

Trachea: the windpipe, which extends from the glottis to the junction of the bronchi, where the syrinx of waterfowl is located.

Tribe: a subdivision of a family or subfamily composed of one or more genera and identified by the suffix *ini*.

Triumph ceremony: a behavior pattern of geese and swans that typically involves mutual calling and posturing by members of a pair following a hostile encounter.

Turning the back of the head: a term applied to a male display of various duck species, in which the nape region is oriented toward a female.

Univalve: a mollusk with a single valve, or shell, such as snails.

Vermiculations: fine, wavy pigmentation patterns on feathers that vaguely resemble worm tracks.

Vlei: a term used in South Africa for a temporary lake or marsh.

Water lily: a group of aquatic plants with large floating leaves, including several genera in the family Nymphaeaceae.

Wigeon (or widgeon): This name is now usually applied to three species of *Anas* formerly separated as *Mareca*, but sometimes is used for other species such as the Cape teal. The origin of the word is obscure, but it is related to the Old French *vigeon*.

Wigeon grass: the inclusive name of a genus (*Ruppia*) of plants in the pondweed family Potamogetonaceae.

Xerophytic: refers to plants adapted to life in dry environments.

