

## Some common winter ducks along the Niagara River

"Dabbling Ducks"--such as the Mallard, Black Duck and Gadwall--feed on the surface by tipping, tail up, to forage for aquatic plants, seeds and snails.

The other species shown here are referred to as "Diving Ducks" and swim below the surface to feed on plants, insects, mollusks and crustaceans. The Mergansers are mainly fish-eaters, but will also feed on mussels, frogs and worms. The Long-tailed Duck is the deepest diver and is capable of swimming 200 feet below the surface.



Mallard (male)



American Black Duck (male)



Gadwall (male)



Canvasback (male)



Redhead (male)



Ring-necked Duck (male)



Greater Scaup (male)

Lesser Scaup (male)





Long-tailed Duck (male)



Common Goldeneye (male)



Bufflehead (female)



(male) Common Merganser (female)



(male) Red-breasted Merganser (female)



(female) Hooded Merganser (male)



White-winged Scoter (male)

The Niagara River is a major wintering area for numerous species of ducks, geese, swans, and other waterbirds.

The River's swift current keeps it free of ice, providing access to water and food sources when other waterways along birds' migratory paths freeze over.

Stretching 56 kilometers from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, the entire Niagara River corridor has received international recognition as a globally significant "Important Bird Area" (IBA) by conservation groups worldwide.