



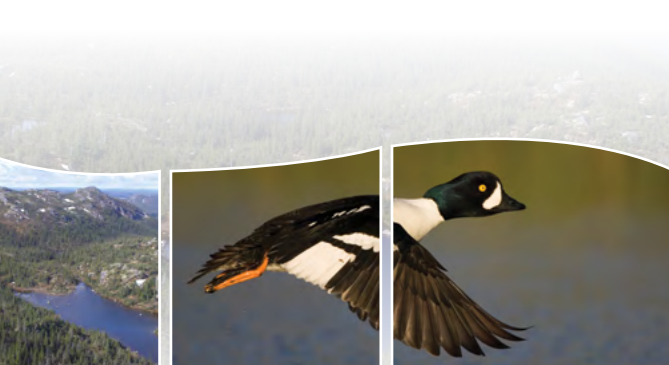
Environment
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Warning to Hunters

THE Barrow's GOLDENEYE

Know how to recognize it!



Canada

The Barrow's Goldeneye looks a lot like its close relative the Common Goldeneye. These two ducks gather in Quebec, and it's important to differentiate between the two, because the Barrow's Goldeneye is "at risk" whereas the Common Goldeneye is not.

There are about 6000 Barrow's Goldeneyes (which corresponds to 1800 breeding pairs) in all of eastern North America. The overwhelming majority flock to Quebec – on lakes of the boreal forest in the nesting season and along the shores of the Estuary and the Gulf of St. Lawrence during the winter.

In comparison, the Common Goldeneye can be found everywhere in Quebec and throughout eastern Canada, and

Quebec's boreal forest alone shelters at least 60 000 pairs. The Common Goldeneye is also found in large numbers along the St. Lawrence River during the winter.

Goldeneyes are diving ducks with a rapid wing beat that emits a characteristic whistling sound. The Barrow's Goldeneye adult male is distinguished from that of the Common Goldeneye by its darker upperparts, a black spur (patch) along its side and a white crescent on its face. The females are more difficult to tell apart, but can be recognized starting with the colour and shape of the bill and head.



Photo: Michel Robert © Environment Canada

Barrow's GOLDENEYE

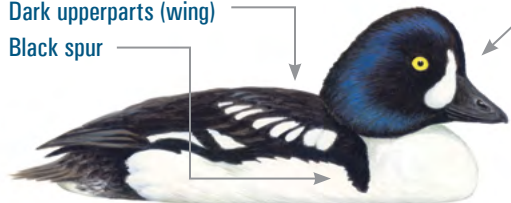
Adult Male

White crescent, short bill and flat forehead

Purple iridescent head

Dark upperparts (wing)

Black spur



Adult Female

Short, orange bill and flat forehead

Head is a darker brown than the Common Goldeneye (dry feathers)



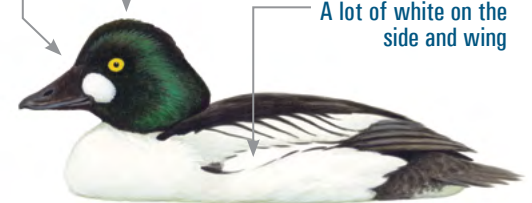
COMMON GOLDENEYE

Adult Male

White roundish patch, long bill and sloping forehead

Green iridescent head

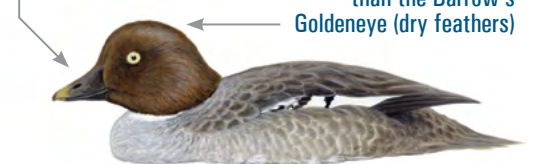
A lot of white on the side and wing



Adult Female

Yellow-tipped, long bill and sloping forehead

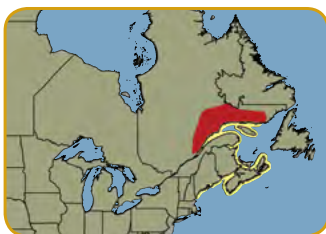
Head is a lighter brown than the Barrow's Goldeneye (dry feathers)



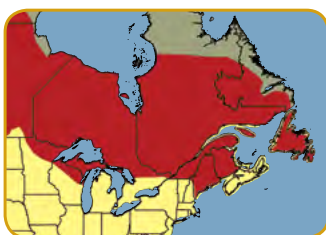
Illustrations: © Ghislain Caron

Where and when to observe them?

It's quite easy to observe the Common Goldeneye in the spring (mid-March to mid-May) and in the fall (mid-October to the end of November), when a good number of individuals gather in southern Quebec, in particular along the St. Lawrence River.



Barrow's Goldeneye
 ■ Breeding area ■ Wintering area
Common Goldeneye



As for the Barrow's Goldeneye, it can be observed along the shores of the St. Lawrence near Charlevoix (e.g. La Malbaie, Baie-des-Rochers and Baie-Sainte-Catherine), the Quebec North Shore (e.g. Baie-Comeau), the Bas-Saint-Laurent (Lower St. Lawrence; e.g. Saint-Fabien-sur-Mer and Mitis-sur-Mer) and the Gaspé Peninsula (e.g. Pointe-Saint-Pierre, baie des Chaleurs). It can be seen in all these areas from the end of October to the end of April.

Important warning to Quebec and Atlantic hunters

Hunters who go duck-hunting near the shores of the Estuary or Gulf of St. Lawrence as well as on boreal forest lakes are likely to bag goldeneyes.

For information on the daily bag, possession limit and hunting season dates for the Barrow's Goldeneye:
www.ec.gc.ca/barrowsgoldeneye

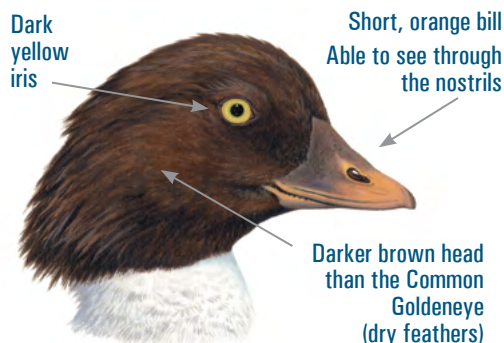
General information

You will find legal measures in provinces and territories at: www.ec.gc.ca/summaries. You may select the appropriate province or territory.

Michel Melançon © Environment Canada

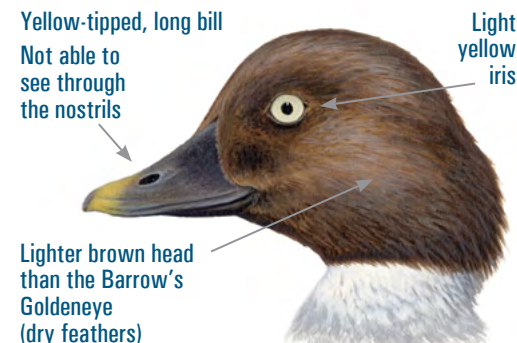
Michel Melançon © Environment Canada

Barrow's Goldeneye



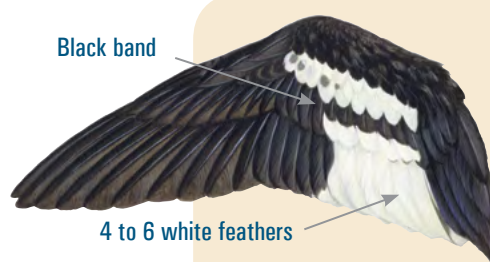
Adult Female

Common Goldeneye



Adult Female

The shape of nostril of the two species differs – it's possible to see through the nostrils of the Barrow's Goldeneye but not through those of the Common Goldeneye.



Adult Males



Adult Females



Immatures



The distribution and extent of white feathers on the wings also help to distinguish the Barrow's Goldeneye from the Common Goldeneye.