

What are Waterfowl?

- Ducks
- Geese
- Swans

Semi-long necks



Flat bills

- Waterfowl require aquatic habitat to survive
- Rivers, lakes, streams, the ocean, wetlands

Have webbed feet



Dabbling Ducks

- Feed in shallow water (dabbling), butts up on vegetation or aquatic insects
- Legs are placed more in the center of body so they can move on land fairly well
- Lift off directly from water into flight
- Wood ducks are also called perching ducks, because they roost in trees

Diving Ducks

- Feed in deeper water by diving under the surface
- Legs placed farther back on the body to help swim under water, don't move well on land
- Wings are broader than dabbling ducks which require more wing beats and cause them to need "takeoff" space, but are stronger fliers.
- Ruddy ducks are also called stiff-tailed ducks, because their tails stick straight out at an angle



"Blue" Snow Geese

USFWS



Tundra Swans

Mike Peters

Geese

- Usually mate for life
- Lay half as many eggs as ducks, but both parents help which creates higher survival for young
- Feed in flocks, on mostly vegetation but also some invertebrates

Swans

- Mate for life
- Biggest of the waterfowl
- Feeds in flocks in the same way as dabbling ducks
- Roosts on land in summer, on water in winter