



Guide to Hunting in Germany

08k – WATERFOWL (WASSERWILD)

(1) Wild Ducks (*Wildenten*)



A variety of wild ducks, published on postage stamps in Belarus in 1996
(see following page for species names)



Guide to Hunting in Germany

Wild ducks, from previous page:

1. Eurasian Teal (*Anas crecca*)
2. Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)
3. Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*)
4. Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)
5. Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*)
6. Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*)
7. Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)
8. Garganey (*Anas querquedula*)
9. Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)
10. Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*)
11. Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)
12. Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*)
13. Smew (*Mergellus albellus*)
14. Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)
15. Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)
16. Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)

Postage of Belarus, 1996.

Ducks are characterized by differences of plumage between the sexes, toes joined by webs, an inability to fly during the molting period, display of eclipse plumage in summer, and bills covered with horny teeth. The two main groups of ducks include:

Dabbling or River Ducks (*Schwimmenten*)

Display an iridescent speculum or wing patch (Spiegel). They do not dive for food. They ride high in the water with the tail above the surface.

Diving or Sea Ducks (*Tauchenten*)

They do not have brilliant wing patches. They display white wing markings, dive for food, and ride low in the water with the tail on or below the surface.



Guide to Hunting in Germany

DABBLING DUCK

DIVING DUCK





Guide to Hunting in Germany

Dabbling or River Ducks (*Schwimmenten*)



Mallards (*Stockenten*)

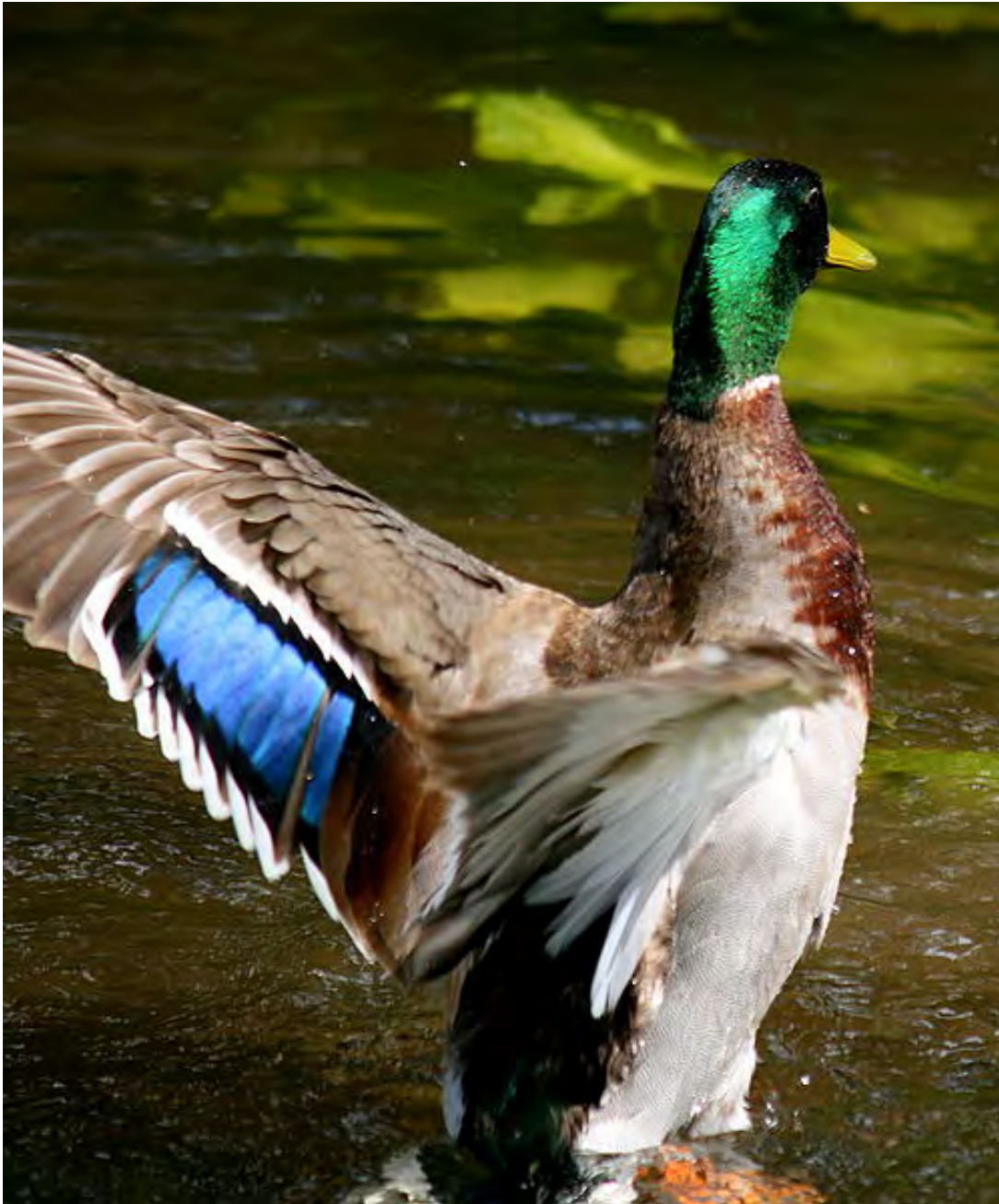
The **Mallard (Stockente)** is about 22 inches length, their bill is yellowish-or grayish-green, their feet are orange, and their wing patch is bluish-green, bordered by white and black stripes.

The head and the neck of male Mallards are steel green, and a white ring encircles the neck. The tail feathers are black with an upward curl. The female is mottled brownish-gray. The Mallard is the most common duck, breeding in large numbers. The flight of these birds is medium fast compared to the swift flight of a low flying coot.



U.S. Forces Europe Hunting, Fishing, and Sport Shooting Program

Guide to Hunting in Germany



Mallard Drake Speculum Feathers (*Männlicher Stockente Spiegel (Gefieder)*)



Guide to Hunting in Germany



Garganey Drake (*Männlicher Knäkente*)

The **Garganey** (*Knäkente*) is about 16 inches long.

The bill is black, the feet are dark grey, and the body is grayish. The male is brighter than the female, has a white stripe behind the ear, and has white-bordered wings. The Garganey's flight is erratic and very fast. Garganeys breed in Germany.



Garganey Hens (*Weibliche Knäkenten*)



U.S. Forces Europe Hunting, Fishing, and Sport Shooting Program

Guide to Hunting in Germany



Green Winged Teal (*Krickente*)

The **Green Winged Teal (Krickente)** is about 14 inches long. The green winged teal's bill is black, its feet are dark gray, and the front edges of its wings are black, becoming steel green farther to the rear and bordered with white. The male has a bright green marking around the eyes that extends to the rear of the head. The green winged teal is the smallest of the wild duck species. The flight of these birds is erratic and very fast. They breed in Germany.



Pintail (*Spiessente*)



U.S. Forces Europe Hunting, Fishing, and Sport Shooting Program

Guide to Hunting in Germany



Gadwall Drake (*Männlicher Schnatterente*)



Gadwall Hen (*Weibliche Schnatterente*)

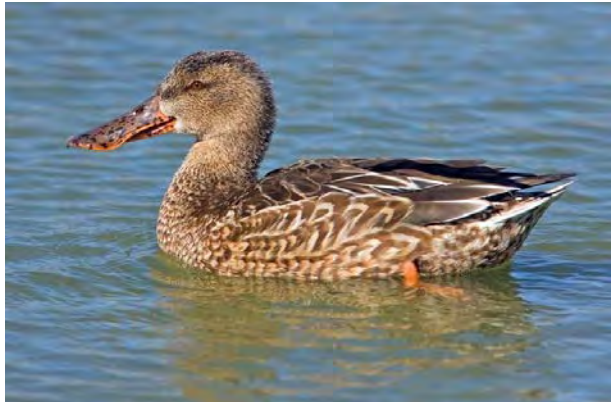


Eurasian Wigeon (*Pfeifente*)

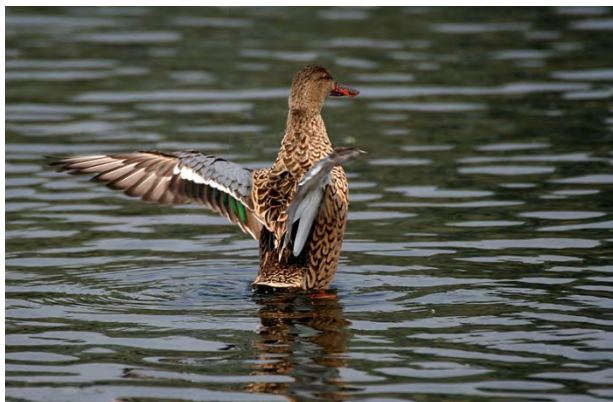


U.S. Forces Europe Hunting, Fishing, and Sport Shooting Program

Guide to Hunting in Germany



Northern Shoveler Drake (*Männlicher Löffelente*)



Hen (*Weibliche Löffelente*)



Guide to Hunting in Germany

Diving or Sea Ducks (Tauchenten)



Common Pochard (*Tafelente*)

The **Pochard (*Tafelente*)** is about 18 inches long. The bill is dark grey with light blue in the middle. The feet are bluish-grey and its wings are glossy gray. The head and neck of the drake are rust-red, and the breast is grayish. The word *Tafel* in *Tafelente* means dining table. In German language, the duck was named for the excellent tasting meat.



Common Golden Eye (*Schellente*)

The **Golden Eye (*Schellente*)** can get up to 17 inches long. Its bill can get black and pointed, its feet are reddish-yellow with dark skin between the toes, and its cheeks have white spots. The head, neck, and end of the tail are black and the under parts are white.



U.S. Forces Europe Hunting, Fishing, and Sport Shooting Program

Guide to Hunting in Germany



Tufted Duck (*Reiherente*)



U.S. Forces Europe Hunting, Fishing, and Sport Shooting Program Guide to Hunting in Germany



Red-crested Pochard Hen (*Weibliche Kolbenente*)



Drake (*Männlicher Kolbenente*)



Common Eider (*Eiderente*)



Guide to Hunting in Germany

Mergansers (*Säger*)

This group includes the **red-breasted Mergansers (*Mittelsäger*)**, somewhat smaller than a mallard with a spiked bill hooked at the end; The **Goosander (*Gänsesäger*)** larger than a Mallard with a long rakish body, slender red bill and feet; and the **Smew (*Zwergsäger*)**, which is smaller and more duck-like than the other mergansers. Male Mergansers are crested and have beaks (sawbills) adapted to catching fish.



Red-breasted Merganser (*Mittelsäger*)



U.S. Forces Europe Hunting, Fishing, and Sport Shooting Program

Guide to Hunting in Germany



Common Merganser (*Gänsesäger*)



Smew (*Zwergsäger*)



U.S. Forces Europe Hunting, Fishing, and Sport Shooting Program Guide to Hunting in Germany



Coot (*Blässhühn*)

Coots (*Blässhühner*)

The Coot (*Blässhühn*) is a member of the rail family and is characterized by its black or dark gray color and its white beak and forehead. The Coot has long toes with flabby webs, is a good swimmer and diver, but flies poorly.



U.S. Forces Europe Hunting, Fishing, and Sport Shooting Program

Guide to Hunting in Germany



Great Crested Grebe (*Haubentaucher*)

Grebes (*Taucher*)

The Grebe (*Taucher*) is a fish-eating, excellent diving bird, with a long, slender beak and toes with rounded flaps instead of webs. The sexes are identical in appearance with a different plumage for winter and summer. The great Crested Grebe (*Haubentaucher*) is Mallard-sized and plentiful in Germany. A smaller species is the little Grebe (*Zwergtaucher*), which is thrush-sized.



U.S. Forces Europe Hunting, Fishing, and Sport Shooting Program

Guide to Hunting in Germany



Little Grebe Drake (*Männlicher Zwergtaucher*)



Little Grebe Hen (*Weibliche Zwergtaucher*)