

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

58 cm

INTRODUCED TO NEW ZEALAND

Males in breeding plumage have a glossy green head, chestnut breast, grey body and black rump. The female is speckled buff and dark-brown. The male in non-breeding plumage is similar to the female, but often with a few remnants of breeding colours. Both sexes have a glossy blue speculum, bordered with black-and-white stripes, on the upper-wing. Plumage is variable because of the high level of hybridisation with grey ducks. Found naturally throughout the temperate Northern Hemisphere, mallards were introduced to New Zealand from the 1860s through to the 1960s, and reached the Chatham Islands about 1950. Mallards are now the most numerous waterfowl in New Zealand and are found on almost any type of fresh or brackish water. They are common on Chatham Island and are regularly seen on Pitt Island and Rangatira.



Mallard drake. Photo: Jeremy Rolfe.

