

Common Waterfowl of THE BATTERY

Use this guide to identify some of the bird species you see along the park's waterfront and in the Hudson River. They're all frequent visitors to The Battery. Note that the males, females, and juveniles

of a species may differ in appearance. Please remember to follow all social distancing guidelines while at The Battery, and **please do not feed any of the birds in the park**. We hope you enjoy your visit!



Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

Some mallards migrate, while others stay through the winter since food and shelter are abundant in the city. The female mallards are the source of the classic duck "quack," which they use to call other ducks to come near.



American Black Duck

Anas rubripes

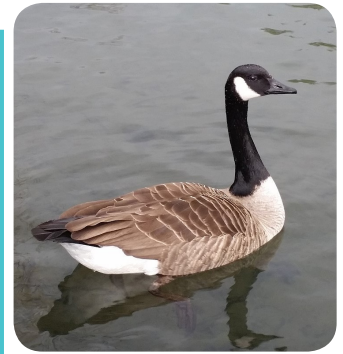
The American black duck eats aquatic and terrestrial plants, as well as seeds and invertebrates. Ducks don't have teeth; their bills have comb-like structures that help them filter food out of water and mud.



Brant

Branta bernicla

Brants winter along the North American coast before flying to the high Arctic for their summer breeding season. They prefer eelgrass as a food source and can often be seen foraging along tidal flats.



Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

Canada geese travel far distances in a distinctive "V" formation, allowing them to benefit from the wing strokes of their companions. While most wild geese have a life expectancy of 12 years, some Canada geese have lived as long as 30 years.



Herring Gull

Larus smithsonianus

Herring gulls are omnivores, eating whatever they can find. When they catch a crab or mollusk with a tough shell, they will fly into the air and drop the prey on rocks to break it open.



Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

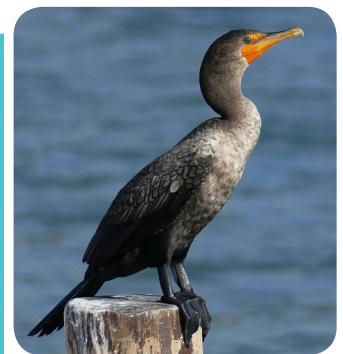
The black ring around the front of the beak identifies the ring-billed gull. These gulls generally visit The Battery in winter, and nest further north in summer. Males and females share the work of building the nest and laying on the eggs.



Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus

The largest gull in North America, the great black-backed gull will often prey on the eggs of other birds during nesting season.



Double-crested Cormorant

Phalacrocorax auritus

Cormorant feathers take on water easily, allowing the birds to dive deeper to catch fish. After diving, the birds stand with wings outstretched to dry, and to build up muscle heat to counter the chilling effect of their cold meal.

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Email education@thebattery.org with questions or for list of image sources.