

URBAN WILDLIFE CHRONICLES EGUIDE



MALLARDS

HOW TO SPOT ME?

- Look in ponds, lakes, wetlands, or even large puddles in parks and neighborhoods.
- Males have a glossy green head, bright yellow bill, and curled tail feather; females are brown-speckled for camouflage.
- Watch for dabbling—tipping headfirst into shallow water—or waddling in search of snacks.

DID YOU KNOW?

Mallards are the ancestors of most domestic duck breeds, and are found on every continent except Antarctica. They're also surprisingly talkative—females give loud quack-quack-quack calls, while males sound softer and raspier.

HOW TO PROTECT ME?

- Don't feed bread—it offers no nutrition and pollutes the water. Instead, offer birdseed, oats, or peas (if at all).
- Keep dogs leashed around nesting areas and ducklings.
- Support wetland conservation and advocate for clean, trash-free water bodies.

REFLECTION PROMPT

What part of the familiar have you learned to appreciate in a new way?



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