

Barrow's Goldeneye

(*Bucephala islandica*)

- The Barrow's Goldeneye is a medium-sized sea duck with a large rounded head and yellow eyes.
- Males have a black back and wings, a white belly and breasts, a purplish-black head, and a white crescent-shaped patch at the base of their bill.
- Females have a chocolate brown head, a greyish brown back, and a whitish belly and flanks.
- They form monogamous pairs and have strong fidelity to breeding and wintering areas.



Provincial Distribution



Habitat/ Range

While this rare duck is most common in Québec, Newfoundland and Labrador is also used by the Barrow's Goldeneye as a molting and wintering area. Groups of molting birds have been found as far north as Little Ramah Bay, Labrador, but have more commonly been reported from the north coast of Newfoundland.

Population Trends

The world distribution of Barrow's Goldeneye consists of three separate populations. There are approximately 4500 Barrow's Goldeneye in the eastern North America population.

Limiting Factors and Threats

Because the Barrow's Goldeneye population congregates in a relatively small geographic areas in important shipping corridors, it is a risk of being limited by oil spills and bioaccumulation of environmental contaminants. Barrow's Goldeneye are also incidentally killed each year by hunters.

Special Significance

These rare ducks dive for their food and are able to stay underwater for up to 70 seconds.

You can help protect Barrow's Goldeneye:

- Report any sightings to the Wildlife Division.
- Be careful not to pollute our oceans.
- Learn something new about a species at risk in Newfoundland and Labrador and tell a friend!

Department of Environment & Conservation

Wildlife Division

Endangered Species & Biodiversity

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