



Where fresh water of Bannerman River meets the salty Atlantic Ocean, the **Harbour Grace Estuary** is home to a diversity of duck life and has been conserved to protect this important habitat. The area is a birding hotspot generally, with over 110 species identified in the area, including American black duck, common yellowlegs, cormorant, common tern, American bald eagle, and more.

Know Your Names

Common Name	Local Name
Common merganser	Gossard
Red-breasted merganser	Shell duck, shell bird



Conservation Areas of Harbour Grace

- Harbour Grace Estuary
- Pirate's Path Coastal Area
- Bannerman Lake



Scan the QR code to view the Stewardship Association of Municipalities' page on Harbour Grace's conservation initiatives. Did you see any of these ducks? Complete the checklist on the inside of the pamphlet.



Ducks

of the
Harbour Grace
Estuary



LET YOURSELF IN



American black duck

A large dabbling, the **American black duck** breeds in freshwater ponds, salt- or freshwater marshes, and on coastal islands and meadows. Often associates (and crossbreeds) with the mallard. Dabbling ducks either eat surface matter or tip their bodies underwater to reach food.



Mallard

The most abundant dabbling duck in North America, the **mallard** is often found in flocks near fresh water in urban areas. They will overwinter in Newfoundland if food conditions are favourable. Once relatively rare in Newfoundland, its population has increased in recent years.

Know Your Ducks



Greater scaup

A hardy diving duck, the **greater scaup** can be found in winter months near calm, soft-bottomed, shallow salt water. With legs set back far on its body, the greater scaup is not inclined to walk far on land. They resemble lesser scaups, with whom they associate.



Green-winged teal

The smallest of North America's dabblers. Often found with black ducks, **green-winged teal** feed in shallow water and typically travel in flocks. They are highly migratory, which makes them a popular target for hunters in Canada, the USA, and Mexico.



Common merganser

The largest of the mergansers, **common mergansers** can tolerate cold conditions in northern forests. Found near lakes and rivers, they chase their main food source, small- to medium-sized fish, underwater. A heavy-bodied bird, they need room to take off from water and appear to run on its surface.



Red-breasted merganser

Slightly smaller than the common merganser, the **red-breasted merganser** prefers saltwater estuaries. The male's breeding plumage resembles a "bad hair day" - a distinguishing feature. The red-breasted merganser's saw-like bill helps it hunt fish.