

Barrow's Goldeneye

Bucephala islandica

STATUS	Special Concern 	Vulnerable 
Special Concern 	Not Listed 	Not Listed 

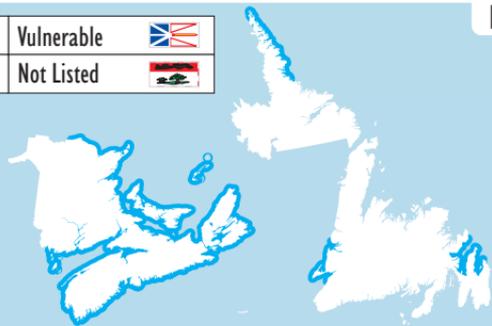


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Species Description

Barrow's Goldeneye is a medium-sized (43-48 cm) diving duck. Males are black and white with a purplish black head and dark bill. Males have a crescent-shaped white patch near the base of their bill. Females have a grayish-brown back, whitish sides and belly, and a brown head. The bill of females is mostly orange in the winter/spring and is dark in the summer. Juveniles are brownish with tan eyes and a dark bill.

Fewer than 1000 individuals winter along the coast of the Atlantic provinces and Maine. Some molting occurs in northern Labrador.



Habitat

Occurs in sheltered areas along the coast and occasionally in ice-free inland rivers. Migrates in May to breed in the boreal forests of Quebec and southwestern Labrador in small high elevation lakes and rivers. Males and some females migrate further north in June to moult in areas such as Hudson Bay and Labrador. They return in November and some winter along sheltered coastlines and harbours in the Atlantic provinces where open water persists.



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Barrow's Goldeneye is typically observed from November to April in sheltered areas along the coast. Their main Atlantic Canada site is the Chaleur Bay, where approximately 750 individuals have been counted.

Interesting Points

- Pairs are monogamous and indulge in a series of acrobatic courtship displays.
- Females nest in tree cavities that they line with downy feathers and grass.
- They feed on aquatic insects and crustaceans in the summer, and molluscs and crustaceans in the winter.



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Similar Species

Common Goldeneye:

Similar size (40-51 cm); less angled head; larger bill. Males: round white patch at base of bill; greenish head; less black on sides. Females: less rounded head; mostly black bill with an orange or yellow tip.



Male



Female

Threats to Survival

- Forest harvest and associated activities (altered nesting habitat and increased accessibility and disturbance).
- Fish stocking programs (food chain alteration).
- Oil spills.
- Sediment contamination.
- Hunting.

How You Can Help

Learn to recognize this species and report sightings to eBird. Report oil spills to the Coast Guard by calling 1-800-565-1633 (Maritimes) or 1-800-563-9089 (NL).



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Contacts, Information & Sighting Reports

Contact: Environment Canada (506) 364-5044 ext. 5060, www.ec.gc.ca

Info: www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca, www.qc.ec.ca/faune, www.mba-aom.ca

Sighting Reports: eBird.org