

LESSER SCAUP

(*Aythya affinis*)



- The Lesser Scaup is one of the most abundant and widespread diving ducks in North America.
- They breed in the boreal forest, arctic tundra, and prairies of Alaska and Canada as well as into the northern United States.

- One of the latest waterfowl species to migrate south in fall, the Lesser Scaup can be found wintering in and around the Gulf of Mexico and the west coast of the United States. Some travel as far south as Central America and the Caribbean.



- Lesser Scaup mainly eat insects, crustaceans, and mollusks as well as occasional aquatic plants and seeds. Because their prey, particularly mollusks, can accidentally ingest microplastics, these are often passed on to the Lesser Scaup through the food chain. In addition, the habit of occasionally feeding at night may lead the Lesser Scaup to mistake plastic for food.

