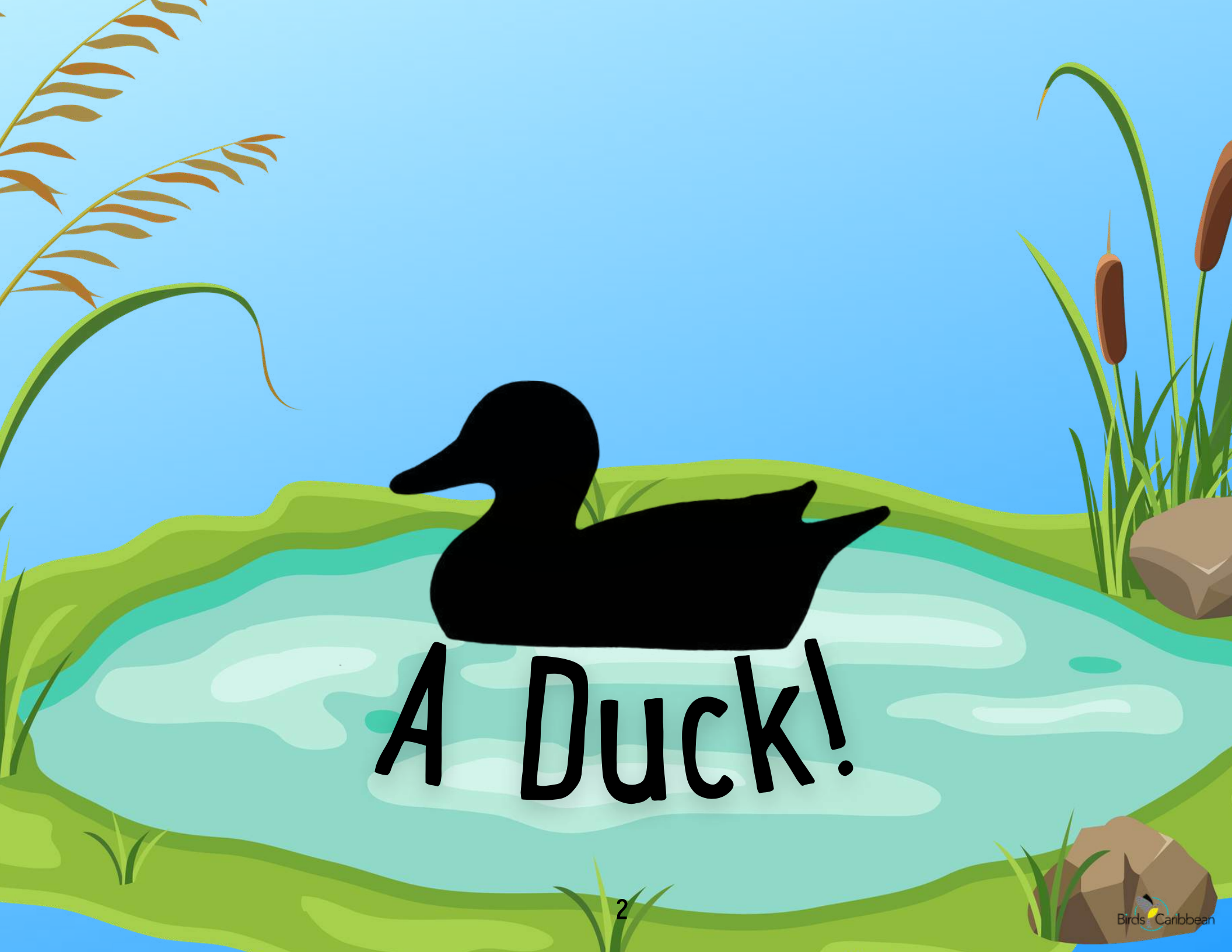
# Teals in a Pond

**You won't see me perch on a tree, I love the pond, it's home to me. My webbed feet kick, my beak is flat, and I waddle, just like that.**

## What am I?



Birds Caribbean





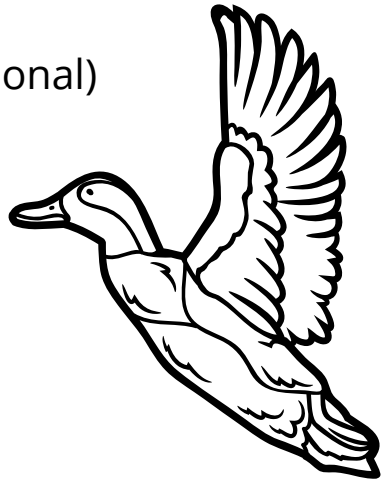

Birds Caribbean

The Green-winged Teal is the smallest duck in North America. This little duck is quite fond of shallow ponds and flooded agricultural fields where they can find food. They eat mainly aquatic invertebrates, grasses and seeds. Invertebrates are animals without a a backbone or bony skeleton like worms, beetles and flies. The Green-winged Teal has a built-in food strainer in its beak, so it can filter out and eat the tiniest bugs from the water!

Now for the fun part! In this activity, you will make your own pond where your Green-winged Teals can wade, snack, or just hang out!

With help from an adult, gather the following materials:

Paper Plates
Blue paint -acrylic
Green craft foam OR green construction paper
Markers or colored pencils
Glue
Green-winged Teal template – on last page
Medium sized paper clips
Scissors
Small stones (Optional)
Magnet



Once you've gathered your materials, it's time to make the pond all the ducks will want to visit!

**Part 1: The Pond**

1. First, paint the inside bottom of your plate with blue paint to create the water. You can paint a little bit up the sides,but try not to go too high so the blue doesn't show through the "grass" later.
2. Next, get your green paper (or foam) and cut out strips that are curved to fit the edge of the plate.
3. Then, cut little V-shapes or triangles out of the top edge of the green strips to make spiky blades of grass.
4. Now, glue the grassy strips all around the sides of your blue plate.
5. If you want, you can glue small pebbles and flowers along the edge of the grass to make your pond look extra real!

**Part 2: The Green-winged Teals**

1. Print, colour and cut out the Green-winged Teal template.
2. Take a paper clip and bend it sharply into an "L" shape or 90 degrees.
3. Tape the short end of the paper clip to the back of one of the ducks.
4. Finally, glue the two teal cutouts together so the paper clip is hidden inside and the printed sides face out.

**Repeat steps 2 to 4 for all the teals you want to add to your pond.**



Paper plate wetland diorama. Photo by Tina Robertson

**Part 3: Make it Swim!**

1. Place your finished teals on the pond, and then hold a magnet  under the plate.
2. Move the magnet around, and your teals will swim across the blue pond!
3. If your teal is wobbly or tips over, just gently adjust the paper clip to help it sit flatter.



# Green-winged Teal

Print and cut

