

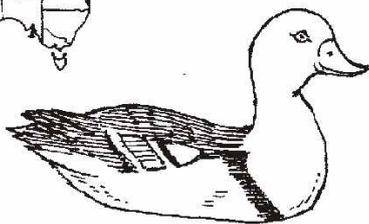
# Nature Notes

Junior Ranger

## WHAT DUCK IS THAT?

The Top End is famous for its wetlands wildlife. However a number of ducks are also found in the drier Centre.

Below are 8 waterfowl common in the Northern Territory. The maps show where they live. Use coloured pencils and a bird guide from your local library to colour them. This will help you recognise them in the bush.



Radjah Shelduck  
*Tadorna radjah*



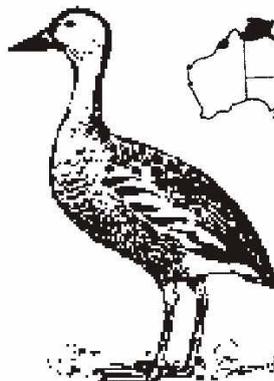
Pacific Black Duck  
*Anas superciliosa*



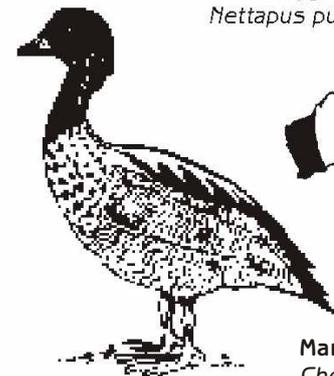
Green Pygmy-goose  
*Nettapus pulchellus*



Grey Teal  
*Anas gracilis*



Wandering Whistling-duck  
*Dendrocygna arcuata*



Maned Duck  
*Chenonetta jubata*



Pink-eared Duck  
*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*



Plumed Whistling-duck  
*Dendrocygna eytoni*



Northern Territory Government



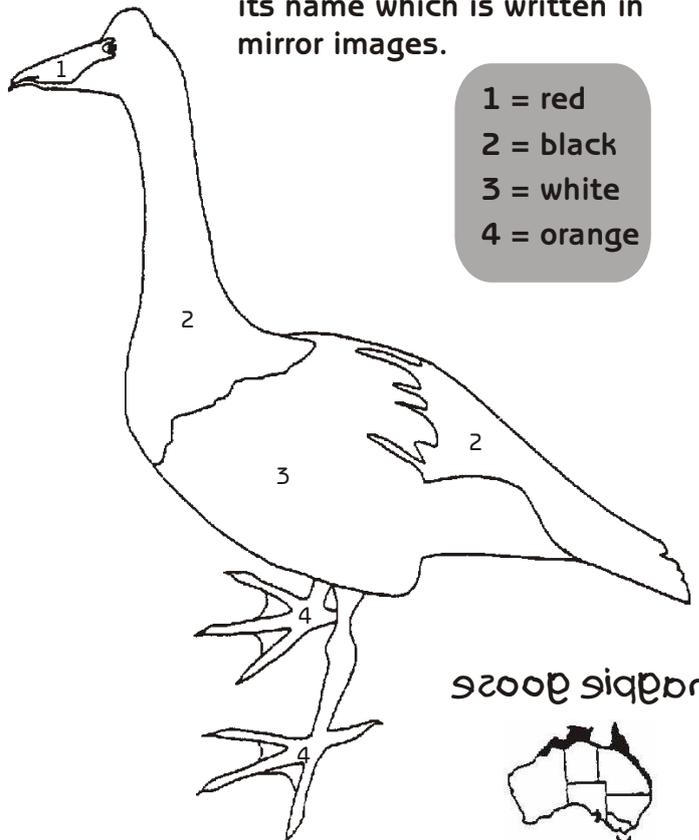
## HUNTING SEASON

Towards the end of the dry season, the sound of shotguns may be heard across the Top End wetlands. People are allowed to hunt ducks and geese during a hunting season declared each year, generally between August and October. This is strictly monitored and enforced by the Parks and Wildlife Service, to ensure waterbird populations are protected.

- All hunters must have a permit.
- Hunters cannot shoot any more than 7 ducks and 7 geese a day.
- All the birds they shoot must be for their family's dinner table. They cannot sell them.
- The birds they can shoot are the Magpie Goose, Pacific Black Duck, Grey Teal, Wandering Whistling-duck, Pink-eared Duck, Maned Duck and Hardhead Duck. All other birds are protected.

Use the number code to colour this waterbird. Can you unravel its name which is written in mirror images.

- 1 = red
- 2 = black
- 3 = white
- 4 = orange



## WHAT BIRD AM I?

I am found throughout Australia.

I'm small and you may think I'm a duckling. But I'm not a duck at all.

My feet are not webbed like the feet of a duck.

I eat small fish, tadpoles, crustaceans and insects.

But I also have the strange habit of eating my own feathers.

When I'm on the move, I fly at night rather than during the day.

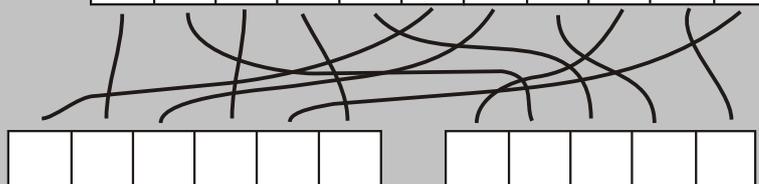
You'll recognise me because you'll see me diving under the water regularly.

Who am I?



Find out the name of this bird by following the lines.

I R T E E L T B G E L



Want to learn more about birds?

Check out the affordable field guides *Field Guide to the Birds of Australia* by either *Simpson & Day* or the one by *Pizzey & Knight*.