



## Pacific Black Duck

<b>Name</b>	<b>Scientific</b>	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>
	<b>Common</b>	Pacific Black Duck
<b>Description</b>	The pacific black duck is between 48-60 cm long and is mainly brown in colour. The head and neck are lighter in colour and it has a dark brown stripe from the bill through the eye to the back of the head. It also has a patch of feathers on each wing called a 'speculum' that shine green or purple. It is a common bird in suburbs with wetlands and large lakes and ponds.	
<b>Habitat</b>	Black ducks will live in a variety of habitats including rivers, lakes, swamps, streams, drainage lines, in fresh or <u>brackish</u> water. They prefer shallow water swamps with lots of vegetation.	
<b>What it feeds on</b>	90% of the food eaten is made up of plant material, - seeds, leaves and grass, but they also eat boatman (insects) and water snails. In the suburbs they can be quite tame, especially where humans feed them. This is not a good idea though because the food we give can make them sick.	
<b>Where it feeds</b>	Amongst the vegetation around the edges of water and on the water. They can often be seen with their tails sticking up in the air as they search under water for food.	
<b>Breeding</b>	Breeding takes place between June-September. 7-12 eggs are laid in a nest lined with <u>down</u> . The female looks after the young and the male will accompany them on feeding expeditions.	
<b>Did you know?</b>	It is not good to feed birds with bread and other types of <u>processed</u> food. It can lead to botulism poisoning, a type of food poisoning which can cause death. To escape predators, the ducklings can dive and swim underwater. If you happen to be near water and hear a noise that sounds like the ducks are laughing, it is a sure sign that there are black duck out on the water.	

