

Nature Kids OUT AND ABOUT

BY DR. JESSICA HAINES

How well do you know Alberta's waterfowl? Test your identification skills on a few of our species by matching the photos with the descriptions of these wonderful waterfowl below.

Fill in the blanks...

Which photo matches my description?

1



2



KAREN FAHRLANDER

3



4



5



6



TRISH HARTMANN



Snow goose (white morph)

I am a white bird with black wing tips. My bill and legs are pink, though you may mistake it for orange from a distance. You can find me in giant flocks numbering in the thousands!



Snow goose (blue morph)

I am a white and blue-grey bird with black wing tips. Like the white morph, my bill and legs are pink, though you may mistake it for orange from a distance. You can find me among the same huge flocks as the white morph.



Canada goose

My head is mainly black except for a white patch in the shape of a chin strap. My beak and legs are black. I have a white belly with a brown and grey back. I am good at living with humans – so some people love me and some people think I'm a pest!



Greater white-fronted goose

I am brown across much of my body, but I have a white patch around the base of my tail and at the base of my beak. My legs are orange and my bill is orange-pink. I have black spots on my belly, which has earned me the nickname "specklebelly."



Sandhill crane

My body is grey with some rusty-coloured feathers. I have a long neck, long black legs, and a long black beak. I have a red forehead and a white chin. My young are called "colts" – they can gallop on long legs soon after they are born.



Trumpeter swan

I am a striking bird! All my feathers are white, which distinguishes me from snow geese. I have a black bill and black legs. I am the largest of all the waterfowl with a wingspan of over six feet!