### northern shoveler

## Spatula clypeata

Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Anseriformes Family: Anatidae

# ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

# ILLINOIS RANGE

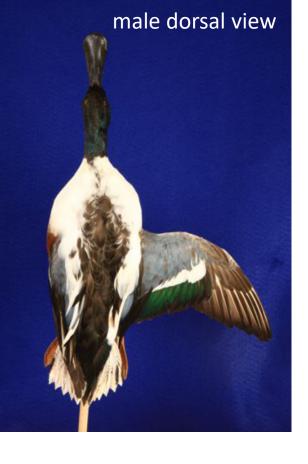


#### **FEATURES**

The northern shoveler is 17 to 20 inches in length. It has a large, flat, rounded bill (like a spatula) for gathering food. The legs are orange. The male's bill is black, while the female's bill is olive with black spots. In breeding plumage, the male has black and white body feathers with red belly and side feathers, white chest feathers, green-black head feathers and gray-blue coloring on the front edge of his wings. The female has brown-speckled body feathers and has the same gray-blue patch on the front of the wings as the male.

#### **BEHAVIORS**

The northern shoveler is a common migrant through Illinois and a rare summer and winter resident in the state. It winters in the coastal regions of the Gulf of Mexico, in the West Indies and in Central America. The northern shoveler lives in and around marshes, shallow lakes, ponds, flooded fields and sloughs. The northern shoveler eats aquatic insects, snails, zooplankton and seeds of buttonbush, corn and millet. The male's call is "took, took, took." Spring migrants begin arriving in Illinois in February. Shovelers that nest in Illinois lay eggs in May or June. Fall migration begins in August.

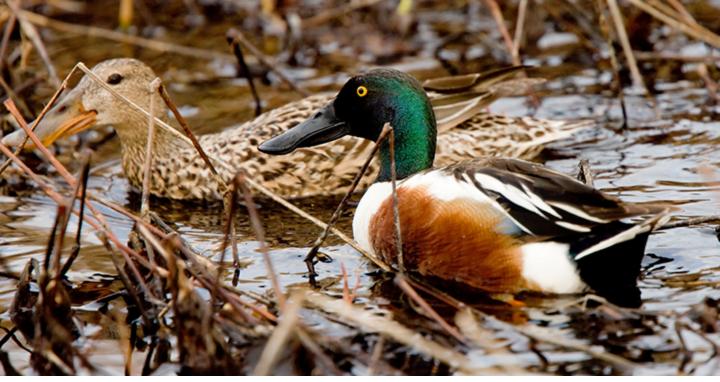








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adult female and male

provided by 4@pictureguy/pond5.com

### **Aquatic Habitats**

lakes, ponds and reservoirs; temporary water supplies; marshes; swamps

## **Woodland Habitats**

none

# **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none