

Outdoor Recreation *is* Outdoor Education

Learning by Coloring - Bufflehead

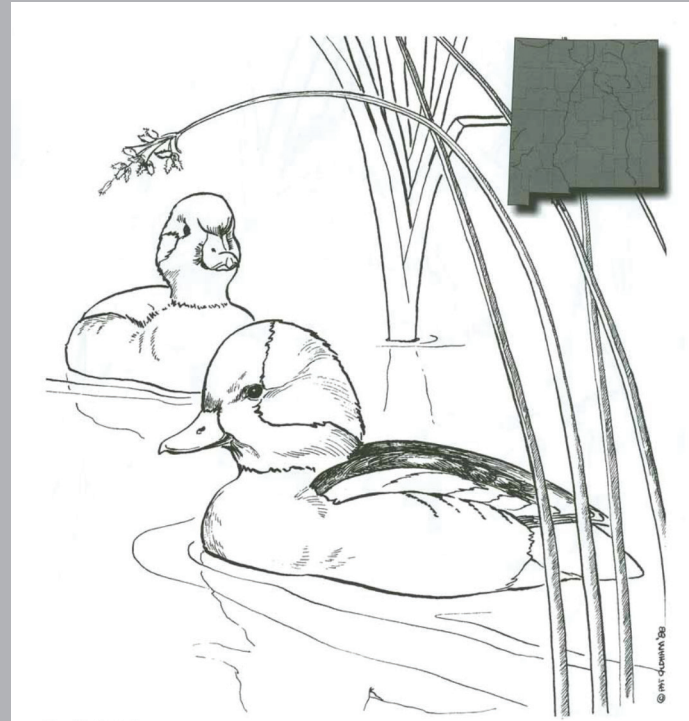
Grade level:

Pre-K to 4th

Objective:

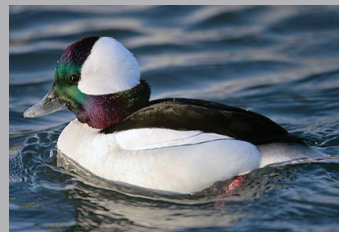
Learn about the bufflehead in New Mexico by coloring the following illustration while reading about them. The bufflehead ranges from 32–40 cm (13–16 in) long and weighs 270–550 g (9.5–19.4 oz), with the drakes larger than the females. Averaging 35.5 cm (14.0 in) and 370 grams (13 oz), it rivals the green-winged teal as the smallest American duck.

Adult males are striking black and white, with iridescent green and purple heads and a large white patch behind the eye. Females are grey-toned with a smaller white patch behind the eye and a light underside.



Bufflehead

The Bufflehead's name comes from 'buffalo-head', since this duck has a very odd puffy head compared to its small body. It has beautiful green- and purple-glossed black feathers. The bufflehead nests in hollow trees along lakes and streams primarily in Canada and Alaska. It is small enough to be able to use old nest holes of northern flickers. In New Mexico, buffleheads are commonly seen on lakes and reservoirs during the fall and winter as these ducks leave the colder weather of the far north. Buffleheads are quite tolerant and when flushed they often circle back to settle in their original places. Their favorite foods are small fish, mollusks, snails and crustaceans.



Male



Female



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
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