

Identification Notes for wildlife law enforcement

CATEGORY: BIRD

Names: Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*)
Mandarin Duck (*Aix galericulata*)

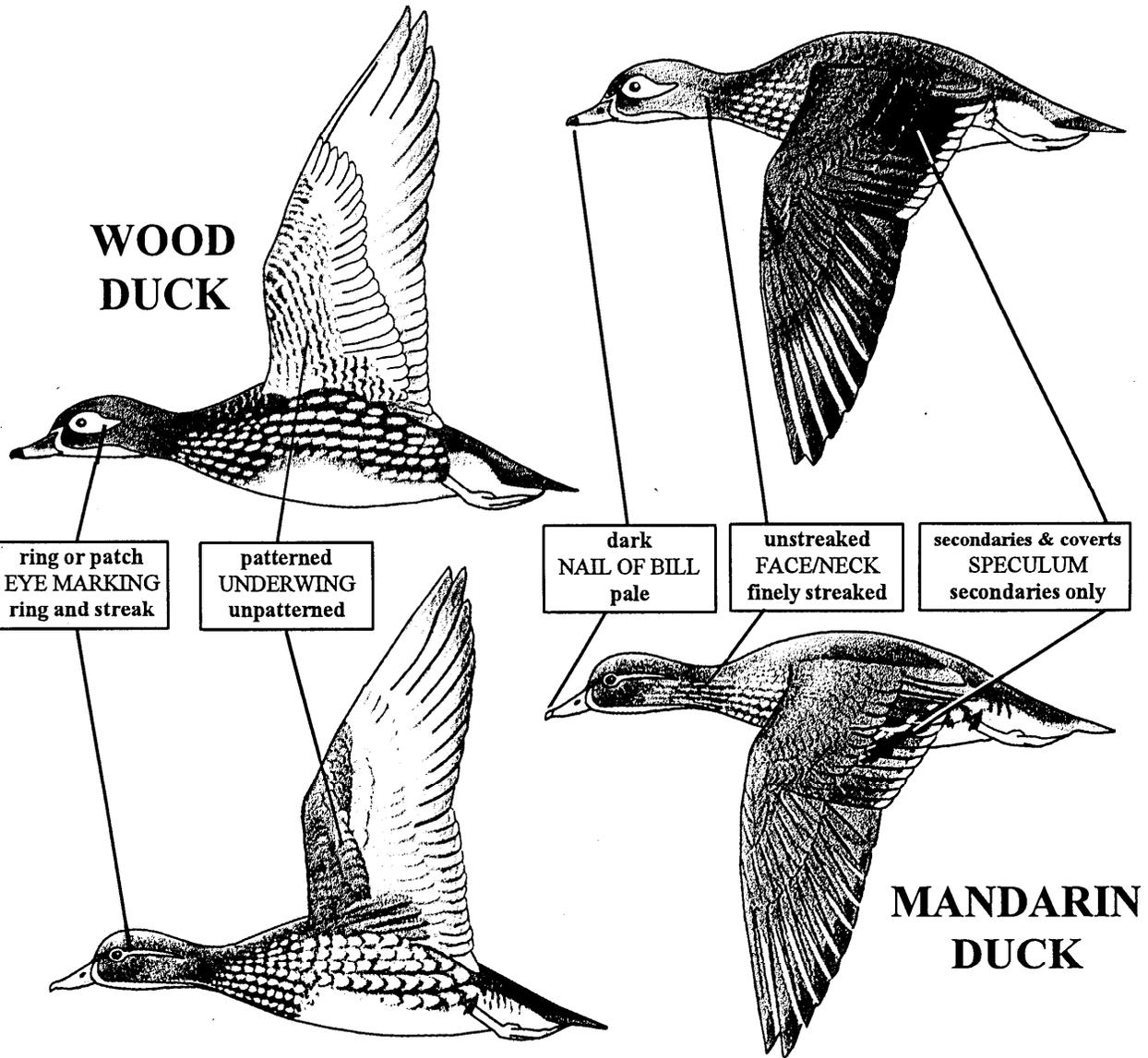
PROBLEM:

Distinguishing female Wood Ducks from female Mandarin Ducks

Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) are native to North America, Mandarin Ducks (*Aix galericulata*) are native to Asia. Although male ducks of these two species are easily distinguished, females are superficially similar in appearance. Females of the two species maybe differentiated by the following characteristics:

Wood Duck: bill with dark nail; eye marking a white ring or patch; face/neck generally free of fine streaks; iridescent blue speculum extends from secondary coverts to secondaries; underwing patterned.

Mandarin Duck: bill with pale nail; eye marking a white ring extending behind the eye as a streak; side of face/neck finely streaked; iridescent blue speculum restricted to secondaries; underwing unpatterned.



REFERENCES:

Madge, S. And H. Bum. 1988. Waterfowl: an identification guide to the ducks, geese and swans of the world. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.
Boyer, T. And J. Gooders. 1990. Ducks. W.H. Smith Publishers, Inc. New York