



Hens and Drakes

It's summer time.

You see some ducks floating on a lake.

They are mallards, which is one kind of duck.

Little mallard ducks all look alike.

Both females and males have yellow feathers.

But when they grow up, they do not look the same.

So how do we know which is which?

All male ducks are called drakes.

Mallard drakes have green heads.

Their green heads shine in the sun.

They also have a white ring around their necks.

The name for a female duck is hen.

Mallard hens do not have feathers of bright colors.

Their feathers are brown with darker brown and white stripes.

These colors keep them safe as they sit on their nests of eggs.