



### **Coastal Carolina Wildlife With a Bill Like That...**

Northern Shovelers are one of many species of ducks that overwinter in the Lower Cape Fear. Their spade-like bill is well designed for skimming the water for food. With a bill like that, they are easy to identify.

Shovelers are one of the dabbling ducks that feed on or near the surface, sometimes tipping upside down to feed off the bottom.

The photo with the male and female swimming in opposite directions is not a trick photo...it is just the way it turned out. This photo was taken in early December when the male (in back) was not quite in its breeding plumage as was the male in the other photo taken in late January. Note that, in both photos, the male has a pale yellow eye while the female's eyes are brown.

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