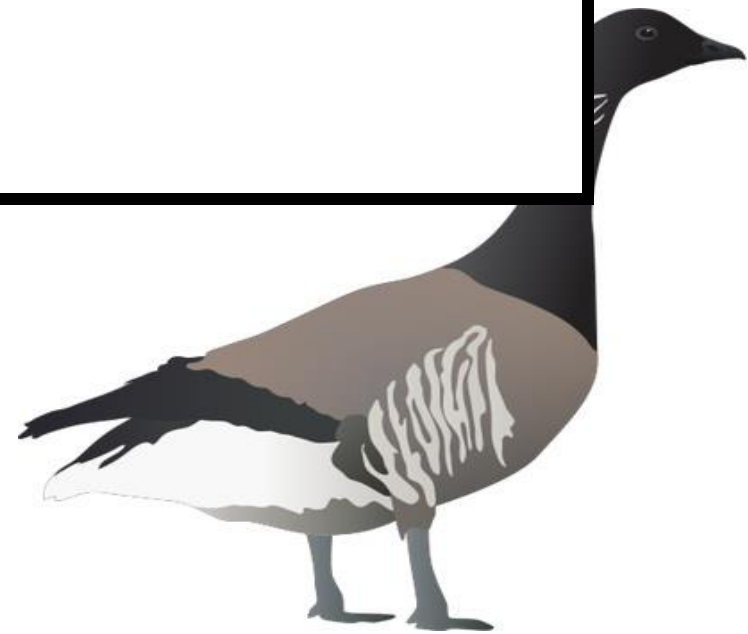


Duck, Duck, **GOOSE**

A funny kid's game
and
a lesson about



Boolean Operators

There was a game you might have played as a kid. Everyone sat in a circle except one kid who walked around the circle tapping everyone on the back of the head, one after another... The kids in the circle were the ducks, and the kid walking around the circle was the goose. The goose walked around and said, "Duck," every time he patted someone on the head. But if he patted you on the head and said, "Goose!" That meant you had to chase him around the circle and catch him before he took your seat. If you couldn't catch him, you were the new goose.

Being the Goose was a terrible thing!



But as every goose knows...

There are three Boolean operators:

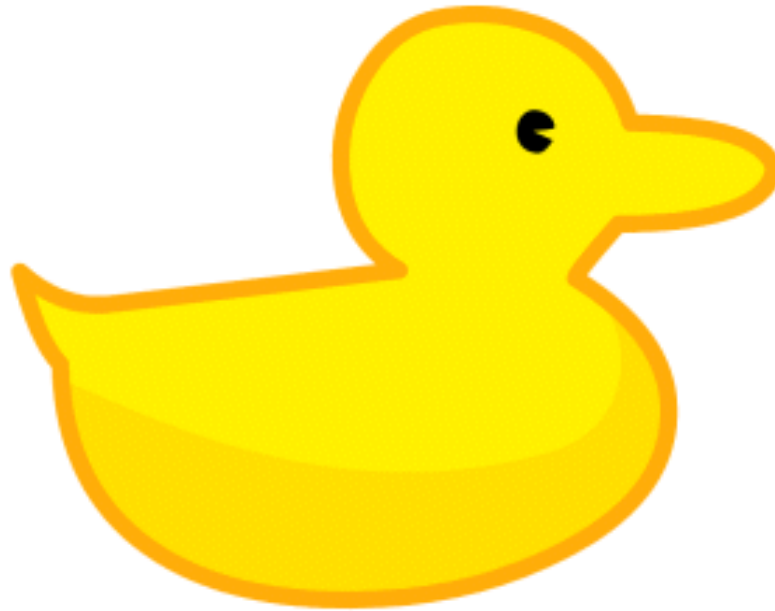
- AND
- OR
- NOT

Boolean Operators are used to:

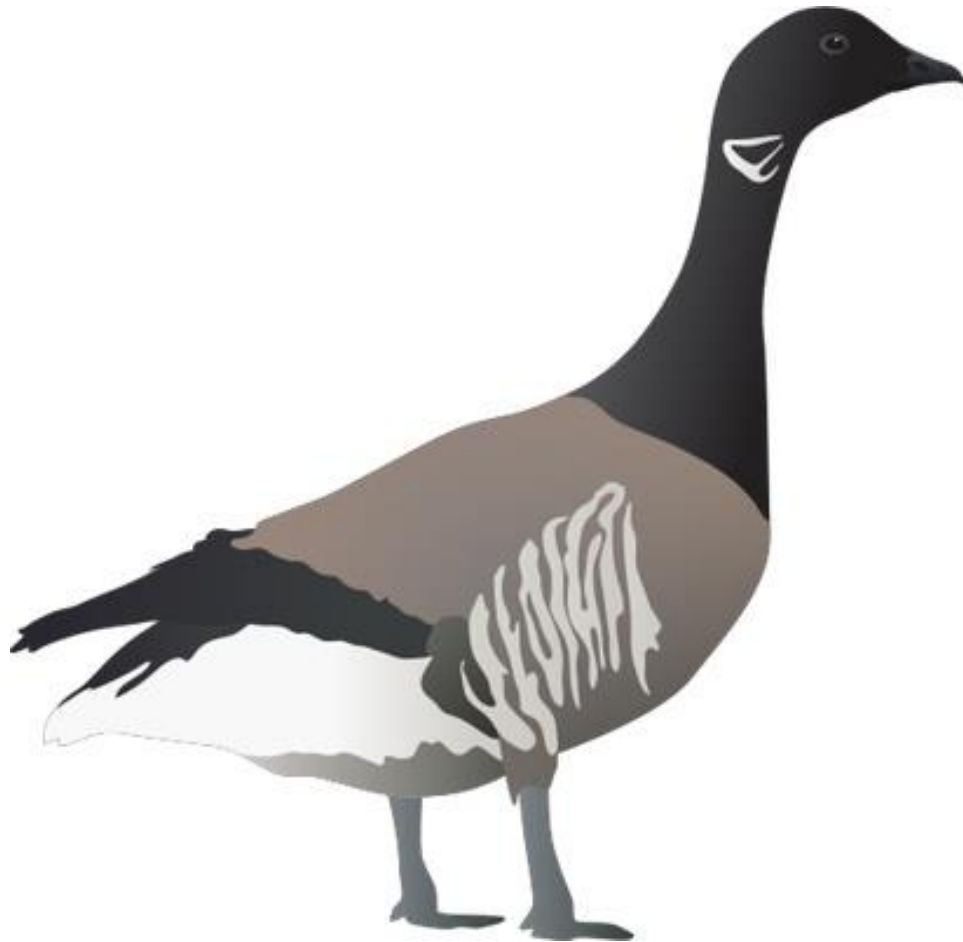
- Narrow your search (AND)
- Broaden your search (OR)
- Exclude unwanted terms from your search (NOT)

**What exactly does this have to do
with water fowl?**

There are articles about ducks:



There are articles about geese:



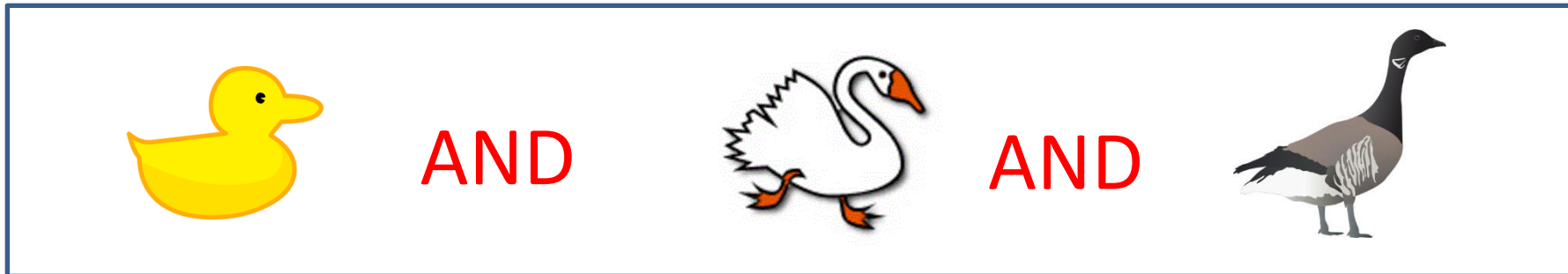
And there are articles about swans:



But there are also articles about



And of course



So here are the rules:

If you search for:

Ducks

AND

Swans

You will **not** get one article about ducks
and another article about swans.

You will get an article about ducks

IF AND ONLY IF

the article is ALSO about swans.

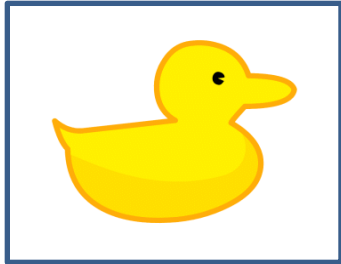
If you search for

Ducks

OR

Geese

You will get articles about



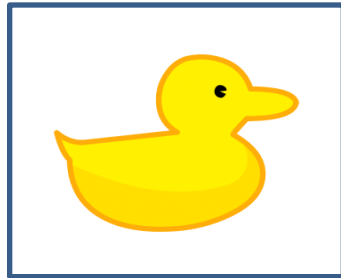
If you search for

Ducks

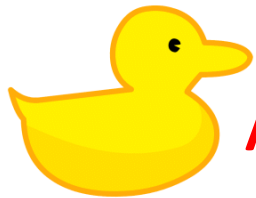
NOT

Geese

You will get



And you may get



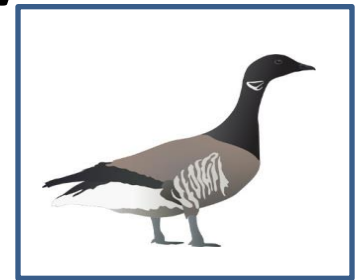
AND



AND

Anything
else with
ducks in
it.

But you will **not**
get



**Under any
circumstances.**

In Short

- AND narrows or focuses your search. If you use AND, you will ONLY get articles containing ALL of your search terms.
- OR broadens your search. If you use OR, you will get articles that contain ANY of your search terms, whether the article is about exactly what you are looking for or not.
- NOT excludes terms you DON'T want to find in your article. For instance, I might be interested in Pirates NOT baseball.

So why would you ever use **OR**?

- Because you might want to see EVERYTHING that is about one of your search terms, whether it relates directly to your topic or not.
- Because you are using it in a controlled manner to widen your search:

Geese

AND

migration **or** flying south **or** directional
sense **or** migratory patterns

Boolean operators

- Help you focus your search.
- Help you broaden your search.
- Allow you to make your search extremely specific.
- Make it easier to find exactly what you are looking for.
- Help you avoid skimming through articles that are not on your subject.