Red-breasted Merganser

I Am NOT Having a Bad Hair Day!
It's Just the Wind in My Hair….

I am a bold world traveler, hanging out in icy waters where usually only scoters and eiders dare to tread. While all mergansers are swift fliers, my species holds the avian record for fastest level flight at 100 mph (80mph is the average)!

I am sometimes called a 'sawbill' because my long, narrow bill is serrated and has a little hook at the tip – perfect for catching fish, my favorite meal. I'm a skilled diver and can catch not only fish, but tadpoles and aquatic insects too (dessert!). Watch me in action.

I'm a fast and powerful swimmer but a bit of an awkward walker on land. To get airborne, I flap my wings and run across the water. Woohoo! More on the *Jr. Duck Stamp* story…..

Photo credit: Corey Finger, 10,000 Birds