



NORTHERN PINTAIL

Anas acuta

SPECIES QUICK FACTS

WINGSPAN

The average wingspan of the northern pintail is about 23 inches.

WEIGHT

The northern pintail averages about two pounds in weight.

FOOD HABITS

The northern pintail eats a variety of aquatic vegetation but also frequents farm fields to eat grains like wheat, barely, and oats.

HABITAT

The northern pintail is found in a variety of habitats from wetland marshes to grain fields.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The northern pintail frequents almost every part of North America for a least a portion of the year.

FUN FACT

The northern pintail is a very mobile bird. One pintail banded in Canada was harvested by a hunter in England only nine days later.



The northern pintail is a common and widespread duck that breeds in the northern areas of Europe and Asia and across most of Canada, Alaska, and the Midwestern United States. Males are attractive and unmistakable with their chocolate head, white neck stripe, and long tail feathers. The female's tail is shorter than the male's, but it is still longer than in other dabbling ducks. Both sexes have slim grey bills. Seeds of aquatic plants are the pintail's main food, but in winter it also eats small aquatic animals. When freshwater habitat freezes over, it resorts to tidal flats, where it feeds on snails and small crabs. Male northern pintails are aggressive, often forcing their attention on females of other species.

