



AMERICAN WIGEON

Anas americana



The American wigeon is often found feeding with diving ducks such as the redhead, scaup, and canvasback, all of which are adept at rooting up vegetation from deep in the water. The American wigeon often feeds by snatching these underwater greens away from the diving ducks as they surface. They feed on the foliage and seeds of aquatic plants, as well as on some insects and mollusks. This species is more restless than most ducks, and it will launch itself into the air with a flurry of alarm calls and beating wings, thus alerting the less suspicious diving ducks around it of the existing danger. The American wigeon was considered rare in the nineteenth century, but the population of this bird has increased in North America since about 1950.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

WINGSPAN

The American wigeon has an average wingspan of 34 inches.

WEIGHT

The American wigeon ranges between a pound and a half to three pounds in weight.

FOOD HABITS

The American wigeon eats a variety of macroinvertebrates and aquatic vegetation.

HABITAT

The American wigeon is found in a variety of habitats ranging from salt-water bays to freshwater rivers, lakes, and marshes.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

In the summer, the American wigeon can be found across the northern region of the United States and Canada and in the winter it is found across the southern border of the United States.

FUN FACT

The American wigeon is very territorial during the breeding season. Only one pair of wigeons is typically found on a pond.