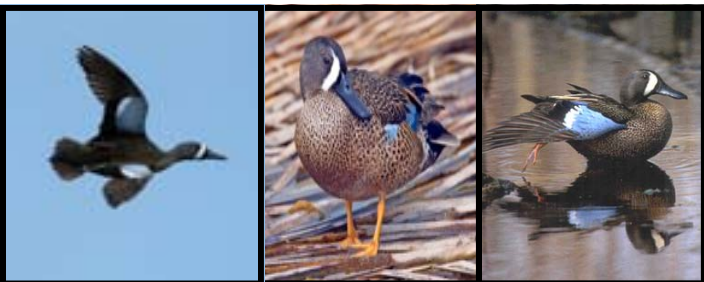


BLUE-WINGED TEAL

Anas discors



The male blue-winged teal has a slate gray head, a white crescent in front of the eye, and a blackish crown. The chest and sides are tan with dark brown speckles. The secondary feathers on the upper part of the wing form a light blue speculum. Female blue-winged teal are almost entirely brown, with a darker crown and an eye stripe. Their wing coloration is similar to that of the males, but it is not as vibrant. The males have a whistled tsee- tsee sound in flight and on the water, while the females make a high pitched squeak. The blue-winged teal is the second most abundant duck species in North America. It also has the highest mortality rate (up to 65%), possibly due to hunting and long over-ocean migrations.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The average length of a male blue-winged teal is about 16 inches, while the female is about 14 inches. They have a wingspan of 22-24 inches.

WEIGHT

The average weight of a blue-winged teal is about 1 pound for males and about 0.8 pounds for females.

FOOD HABITS

Blue-winged teal feed on aquatic vegetation (algae, pond weed, etc.), seeds, and aquatic invertebrates.

HABITAT

The blue-winged teal resides in marshes, wetlands, ponds, and estuaries. They prefer any wetland that is in close proximity to fields or grasslands.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

In the winter the blue-winged teal can be found in Florida, the Caribbean Islands, the gulf coast of Texas and Louisiana, Mexico, and Central and South America. During the rest of the year they can be found across much of the central and northern areas of the United States and Canada.

FUN FACT

The blue-winged teal migrates over long distances. One individual tagged in Alberta, Canada was shot 30 days later in Venezuela, a distance of 3,800 miles.