



GADWALL

Anas strepera

SPECIES QUICK FACTS

WINGSPAN

The average wingspan of a gadwall is approximately 34 inches.

WEIGHT

The average weight of a gadwall is about two pounds.

FOOD HABITS

Gadwalls consume a variety of aquatic plants and animals including small fish, mollusks, insects, amphibians, grain, seeds, and acorns.

HABITAT

The gadwall prefers open marsh habitats containing either fresh or brackish water.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The gadwall is found throughout the United States, at least for a portion of the year, and is also found in Mexico and in some areas of southern Canada.

FUN FACT

Unlike many other species of waterfowl, gadwalls migrate at night.



The gadwall is a gray-colored dabbling duck; it feeds by tipping forward so that the tail sticks up as it reaches for plants. It is a little smaller than the mallard and has a black rump. It shows a white wing patch in flight. When seen closely, the grey color is made up of exquisitely fine barring and speckling. The female gadwall can be difficult to distinguish from female mallards. The most obvious differences are the white speculum and belly, but these field marks are often concealed. This species breeds throughout the North Temperate Zone and is abundant in certain southern locales during the winter. Its preferred habitat is marshlands and slow flowing rivers with vegetated islands. It nests, as an introduced species, in low numbers in certain areas of the United Kingdom.

