



GREEN-WINGED TEAL

Anas crecca



The green-winged teal is the smallest duck in North America. The male has a cinnamon colored head with a green patch behind its eyes. The female has a light brown head, neck, and body with a whitish throat. Both males and females have a green speculum on the upper part of their inner wing. This patch is brighter in males than it is in females. also has a green patch on her inner wings which is a bit brighter than the male's. Green-winged teals are rapid flyers. They are the only duck known to scratch while flying. One difference between males and females is their calls. Males have a distinctive whistle, while the females vocalize through a series of quacks.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The green-winged teal is a small duck ranging from 12-15 inches in length with a wingspan of 20-23 inches.

WEIGHT

The average weight of a green-winged teal is about 0.7 pound for males and about 0.6 pounds for females.

FOOD HABITS

Green-winged teal feed on seeds of sedges, smartweeds, pondweeds, and grasses, aquatic insects, mollusks, crustaceans, and tadpoles.

HABITAT

The green-winged teal resides in shallow inland wetlands, beaver ponds, and coastal marshes with heavy vegetation and muddy bottoms.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The green-winged teal breeds throughout most of Canada, Alaska, Maine, North Dakota, Minnesota, and northern Michigan. They winter in the western United States, Mexico, and the southern United States.

FUN FACT

The Green-winged Teal sleeps standing up, with its bill turned into its back feathers.