



REDHEAD

Aythya americana

SPECIES QUICK FACTS

WINGSPAN

The average wingspan of a redhead is 25 inches.

WEIGHT

The average weight of a redhead is approximately two and a half pounds.

FOOD HABITS

The redhead eats a variety of both plant and animal life, including snails, small fish, insects, grasses, and pond weeds.

HABITAT

The redhead prefers ponds, lakes, and marshes with shallow water and ample vegetative cover nearby.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The redhead is commonly found throughout most of the United States and western Canada.

FUN FACT

Redheads are one of the most adept of all the diving ducks.



Male redheads have a reddish-chestnut head, a grayish back, a white belly, and a black neck and chest. The females have a brown head and back and are white-breasted with a white chin and pearl-gray wing patches. Although the plumages of males and females are quite different, they share the same blue-gray feet and bills. Redheads are found in shallow freshwater lakes, ponds, marshlands, coastal waters, and bays. These environments are ideal for feeding and breeding in this species. During the winter season, these birds usually migrate south of their breeding grounds and return when the cold season is over. Redheads are heavy birds and must run along the surface of the water when taking flight. The vocalizations of females include squawks, while the males produce cat-like meows and purrs.

