



# WOOD DUCK

*Aix sponsa*



The male wood duck is perhaps the most beautiful duck in the world, with a glossy green head, rust-colored chest, and bronze sides, all accented by various white markings. The eye and the base of the bill are red. Females are much more drab in their coloration. Their most distinctive feature is a very large white eye-ring. Wood ducks nest in cavities in hollow trees that are at least several feet above the ground. For this reason, they are restricted during the breeding season to wooded areas near water such as bottomland swamps. It is not unusual during that time of the year to find these ducks perched high in the trees instead of swimming in water.



## SPECIES QUICK FACTS

### SIZE

The wood duck averages between 18 and 21 inches in length.

### WINGSPAN

The wood duck has an average wingspan of about 28 inches.

### FOOD HABITS

Wood ducks are omnivores, and their diet includes nuts, fruits, aquatic plants and seeds, aquatic insects, and other invertebrates.

### HABITAT

The wood duck is found in open woodlands near ponds and rivers in secluded areas away from human activity.

### GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The wood duck is found throughout most of the central and eastern United States and southern Canada. They are also found on the west coast from southern Canada to the Mexican border.

### FUN FACT

The ducklings of this species can jump to the ground or water from as high as 30 feet as they follow their mother out of the nest.