
Cinnamon Teal

Spatula cyanoptera

Class: *Aves*

Order: *Anseriformes*

Family: *Anatidae*

Characteristics:

A relatively small dabbling duck named for the distinct reddish-brown coloration of the male. The male also displays a conspicuous blue patch on the upper wing. The female displays the typical drab brown coloration of common in female ducks and also has a light blue to green speculum (patch of color on the wing). During breeding season, the male has a dark patch on top of the head ([Arkive](#)).

Behavior:

While many ducks are found from coast to coast, the cinnamon teal is exclusively found in the western North and South America. They usually forage in shallow water and will swim with their head partially submerged, straining food from the water ([Audubon](#)). The female has a loud, quack-like call compared to the males "chucking" sounds.

Reproduction:

They build a shallow nest of dead grasses lined with down close to the water edge in which is laid up to 16 pale-colored eggs. The female does all the incubation and the young hatch after 21-25 days. The female immediately leads the young to water.

Diet:

Wild: Mainly seeds but will also eat plant material and invertebrates

Zoo: Scratch grains, greens, waterfowl pellets

Conservation:

Protected by the Migratory Bird Act, their numbers have shown some decline but not enough for concern.

FYI:

Unlike most ducks, the male may stay with the female until the eggs hatch and has even been seen to accompany a female and her young brood ([Audubon](#)).



Range & Habitat:

Shallow freshwater and brackish wetlands



Lifespan: up to 20 years in captivity, 10 years in the wild.

Special Adaptations: If something threatens the ducklings, females may put on a broken-wing act.

IUCN Conservation Status:

Least Concern

