
Baikal Teal

Sibirionetta formosa

Class: *Aves*

Order: *Anseriformes*

Family: *Anatidae*

Characteristics:

A beautiful dabbling duck (slightly larger than the common teal), males have striking plumage including green and tan alternating bands on the head, and elongated feathers on the back. Females have a distinctive head pattern with a white loreal (area between the beak and eye) spot and a dark stripe behind the eye.

Behavior:

As a dabbling duck, Baikal teal feed along the top of the water. Rarely, they may migrate as far as Alaska. While some have been seen throughout North America, it is presumed these are most likely escaped captive birds.

Reproduction:

Baikal teal breed in pools along the edge of tundra and swampy forests. They reach sexual maturity between 1-2 years old and will lay 6-10 eggs that hatch following a 25-day incubation period. The nests are located on the ground in meadows or willow clumps.

Diet:

Wild: Seeds, aquatic invertebrates (including larvae, snails and crabs), plant material, small fish

Zoo: Scratch grains, seabird diet, flock raiser pellets, oyster shell

Conservation:

Baikal teals have declined over the last several years due to habitat destruction and over-hunting, however it appears not to be effecting their numbers as much as predicted.

FYI:

In place of teeth, ducks have serrations on their bills that allow them to filter food out of the water.



Range & Habitat:

Waterways of central and eastern Siberia; they winter in China, Japan and Korea



Lifespan: up to 30 years in captivity, 20 years in the wild.

Special Adaptations: They are known to forage for seeds, grains and nuts in forests and along roadways.

IUCN Conservation Status:
Least Concern

