
Ring-necked Duck

Aythya collaris

Class: *Aves*

Order: *Anseriformes*

Family: *Anatidae*

Characteristics:

A diving duck with striking coloration, the male is black, white and grey with a sloping forehead and peaked head, and a faint brownish ring around the neck. The female is brown, but a closer look reveals a delicate face pattern, white stripe at the base of the bill, and darker area at the base of the neck ([Ducks Unlimited](#)).

Behavior:

Ring-necked ducks are found in small groups, except during migration when they form immense flocks. They will sometimes flock with scaup, which they resemble in appearance. They dive below the water to feed and often prefer smaller bodies of water ([Cornell](#)).

Reproduction:

Ring-necks don't do much to build a nest until the female begins to lay eggs. She proceeds to continue building on the nest while incubating the eggs. The nest is usually located in a flooded area on the water surface and she lays up to 14 eggs which hatch after a 25-29 day incubation period, and they build a ramp on which the female can enter and exit the nest.

Diet:

Wild: Tubers, aquatic plants, mollusks, aquatic insects and snails
Zoo: Scratch grains, greens, waterfowl pellets

Conservation:

Ring-necked ducks are not a conservation concern.

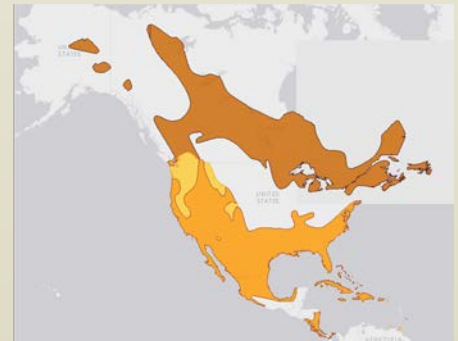
FYI:

It's difficult to see the chestnut-colored collar of feathers unless you have them practically in hand. They were named by nineteenth century biologists who were identifying them from dead specimens, and the ringed neck was quite obvious up that close ([Cornell](#)).



Range & Habitat:

Small bodies of water during migration, breed in marshes, wetlands and bogs



Lifespan: up to 20 years in captivity, 5-10 years in the wild.

Special Adaptations: Ring-necks will dive in search of mollusks and swallow them whole.

IUCN Conservation Status:

Least Concern

