



blue-winged teal

Anas discors

Kingdom: Animalia
 Division/Phylum: Chordata - vertebrates
 Class: Aves
 Order: Anseriformes
 Family: Anatidae

FEATURES

The blue-winged teal is 14 to 16 inches in length. Both sexes are dull brown and have a powder blue wing patch. In spring, the male has a dark blue head with a white, crescent moon-shaped patch between the bill and eye.

BEHAVIORS

The blue-winged teal is a common migrant through Illinois. It is a common summer resident in the northern two-thirds of the state. This bird winters as far south as Peru and Guyana. It occasionally winters in the southern one-third of Illinois. The blue-winged teal lives in and around ponds, lakes, sloughs, flooded fields, ditches and marshes. The blue-winged teal eats aquatic plants, mollusks (snails, mussels) and aquatic insects. Its call is "kick, kick, kick, kick." This bird flies very fast. It arrives in Illinois on its northward migration from late February through May. The blue-winged teal nests as far north as Canada. In Illinois this bird nests primarily in the northern two-thirds of the state although nests have been found statewide. Nests are built on the ground near a pond or in a marsh. Six to 11 white or greenish eggs are laid in May or June. Southern migration begins as early as July.

HABITATS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> swamps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marshes | <input type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> peatlands | |

ILLINOIS STATUS

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered | <input type="checkbox"/> threatened |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> native | <input type="checkbox"/> exotic | |

ILLINOIS RANGE

Summer Resident: northern 2/3. Migrant: statewide.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.