

Ringed Teal

Callonetta leucophrys



Physical Characteristics

- The ringed Teal is a small duck with a blue bill and stout-looking body. They have colors ranging from brown, tan, beige, white, and darker colors like red, blue, green, and black.
- Males have pink coloring in their breast with chestnut wings and green highlights on their flight feathers. Females are mostly mottled brown.
- These ducks have long claws on their feet.

Size

- Length: 14-15 in
- Weight: 12 oz
- Wingspan: 28 in

Lifespan

- Wild: unknown
- Zoos: up to 15 years

Behaviors

- They live a diurnal, semi-aquatic lifestyle, searching for food during the day and sticking mostly to the water to feed. They will spend some time on land to move locations and find a nesting spot up in trees.
- Males whistle and females quack, but some of their calls can be cat-like or be a suspended “peewoo” sound.
- They stay in monogamous breeding pairs, and the babies stay with their parents until they are fledglings. The parents will form a group structure with their chicks until the chicks grow.

Diet

- Wild: Seeds, aquatic plants, invertebrates, and small fish
- Zoo: waterfowl kibble diet, various greens

Reproduction

- Incubation/Gestation Period: average of 29 days
- Clutch/Litter Size: 6-12 eggs
- Chicks are able to fly once they are 53 days old. Chicks will follow their parents immediately after hatching. Males will often follow chicks that are lagging behind to ensure they stay with the group.
- They tend to form stable mating pairs. They nest in naturally occurring holes, such as tree cavities. Both parents help incubate eggs.

Habitat and Range

- Habitat: Forested wetlands
- Range: Uruguay (breeding), northern Argentina, Bolivia, southern Brazil, and Paraguay



Conservation

- IUCN Status: Least Concern
- This species has an extremely large range and stable population trends, but deforestation could lead to a lack of places for these ducks (and other wood ducks) to nest.

Classification

- Kingdom: Animalia
- Phylum: Chordata
- Class: Aves
- Order: Anseriformes
- Family: Anatidae
- Genus: *Callonetta*
- Species: *C. leucophrys*

Interesting Facts

- The ringed teal's claws are long and pointy, helping it to nest in trees rather than on the ground.
- Newly hatched chicks will rub against their mother's body to gain waterproofing oil for their feathers.