

Blue-winged Teal

Anis discors

Description

The Blue-winged Teal is a small dabbling that is the most common teal in Alberta's grasslands and parkland areas. The adult male has a rounded slate blue head with a crescent shaped band of feathers behind its black bill and in front of its black eyes. The male has a light brown body with a white patch near the rear and a black tail, and shows a blue patch with a white border on its fore wings, especially when in flight. The adult female is a mottled or scalloped grey-brown with a whitish patch at the base of the tail and bill, and a dark line through its black eye. The bill is quite large. Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal females and immatures are very hard to distinguish from one another. The best area for it to live in is likely to have grassy spaces mixed with wetlands. It is most likely found in the calmer waters of marshes, sloughs, ponds and the weedy edges of small lakes. Nests are built in concealing grasses or vegetation on dry land, but near to water

FUN FACTS

- The Blue-winged Teal is one of the last to migrate northwards in spring and one of the first to migrate southwards in fall.
- Blue-winged Teals migrate as far as Venezuela every year.
- In the late summer they undergo a moult which prevents them from flying so they spend that time in marshes or sloughs.
- The oldest recorded Blue-winged Teal was a 23-year old male banded in Alberta and found in Cuba.



If you find an injured or orphaned wild animal in distress, please contact the Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society hotline at **403-214-1312** for tips, instructions and advice, or visit the website for more information www.calgarywildlife.org






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Contact Us

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