



but is more abundant in north-central and northwestern Iowa.

Habitats

Mississippi River; Missouri River; interior rivers and streams; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; natural lakes and prairie marshes

Iowa Status

common; native

Iowa Range

summer: statewide; scattered throughout Iowa in suitable habitats; migrant: statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001. *Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

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 long. 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.

Natural History

The blue-winged teal lives in and around ponds, lakes, sloughs, flooded fields, ditches, and marshes. It eats aquatic plants, mollusks (snails, mussels), and aquatic insects. Males utter chirping and puping notes; females a light quack. It is one of Iowa's most abundant ducks. This bird flies very fast. It is a late migrant with most birds arriving in Iowa in April. The blue-winged teal nests as far north as Canada. Nests are built on the ground near a pond or in a marsh, usually in grasses or sedges. Six to 11 white or greenish eggs are laid in May or June. Southern migration begins as early as July. It nests statewide,