

# TEAL, CHESTNUT

## RANGE:

Found in portions of southwest & southeast Australia and Tasmania.

## HABITAT:

Found in freshwater and brackish water lakes and river estuaries throughout its range. Tidal mudflats and inlets, swamps.

## SIZE:

Length: 37–48 cm. (15–19 inches)

## REPRODUCTION:

- The chestnut teal can generally be seen in pairs or in small flocks.
- The nests are made mainly of down, and is usually set in a small depression in the ground. They prefer to nest where they can be hidden by tall grass or thick vegetation. Sometimes can be found nesting in hollow trees.
- Breeding is generally between August and November.
- Clutches of 8–12 creamy-white colored eggs, which hatch in about 26 days.

## DIET:

Aquatic insects, worms, plants and seeds.

## BEHAVIOR:

- The teals are dabbling ducks, which means they feed on the waters edge and by upending themselves to feed off the bottom waterways.
- The male makes a soft muted peeping sound, while the female has what is described as a penetrating “quack” which is repeated several times in a row.

## POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The male chestnut teal can be identified by its iridescent green head and neck, mottled brown upper parts, and a white patch on the flank with a black tail.
- The wings are dark brown, the under parts of the animal are a chestnut color and there is a white patch on the flank.
- The females lack the iridescent head and neck coloration, and the body is usually darker.
- The teals have a bluish gray bill, greenish gray legs and hazel colored eyes.
- They tend to be nocturnal and spend most of the day resting. At night they feed in shallow water areas, dabbling for aquatic shoots, seeds, tubers, roots and for small invertebrates.

## STATUS:

Common

# theZOO

L O U I S V I L L E

**PHOTO  
COMING  
SOON**

|          |                     |
|----------|---------------------|
| Order:   | <b>Anseriformes</b> |
| Family:  | <b>Anatidae</b>     |
| Genus:   | <b>Anas</b>         |
| Species: | <b>castanea</b>     |