

Pintail Duck

Scientific Name: *Anas acuta*

Class: Aves

Order: Anseriformes

Family: Anatidae



This slim-bodied, long-necked bird has a sharply pointed tail in contrast to the more common rounded one. The male has gray feet, a gray to grayish-blue bill and a white breast. The head is brown or greenish with a trailing edge. There is a bronze-green speculum. Females are mostly brown. They are 20 to 29 inches long and weigh 2 to 3.5 pounds.

Range

Their range is northern Eurasia and the Americas.

Habitat

They inhabit fresh and salt water marshes and shallow fresh water lakes.

Gestation

Incubation: 23 days

Litter

Clutch size: 7-9 eggs

Behavior

Pintails move in large flocks, and banded birds have been recorded to fly 2,000 miles in migration. They are considered to be good eating. Very wary, they are crepuscular and nocturnal and they freely associate with other species. Their extra-long neck allows them to feed in deeper water than most other dabbling ducks can exploit.

Reproduction

The pintail female is adept at feigning injury to protect her young. Only the female incubates the eggs. The nest is loosely constructed from dry vegetation and lined with down and feathers. It is less concealed than the nest of most ducks. The downy young are dark above and whitish below. They fledge in 6 weeks but are attended during that time by the female in addition to finding their own food. The male may be present in the early fledging stages.

Wild Diet

Seeds, bulrushes, pond weeds, occasional animal food.