

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Anseriformes
Scientific Name: *Amazonetta brasiliensis*

Family: Anatidae
Common Name: Brazilian Teal

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Africa Asia Australia North America Other Neotropical [Click here to enter text.](#)

Habitat: Forest Riverine Desert Montane Grassland Other Coastal [Click here to enter text.](#)

Circadian Cycle: Diurnal Crepuscular Nocturnal Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

Cold Tolerance: To 70° F To 60° F To 50° F To 40° F To 30° F To 20° F Other [Can be maintained outdoors as long as they have access to moving water to keep their feet from freezing](#)

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F To 50° F To 70° F To 90° F To 110° F Other [Can be kept outdoors as long as water and shade are available](#)

Diet: Frugivore Nectivore Carnivore Omnivore Piscivore Folivore Insectivore Other (Add Below)

Captive Dietary Needs:

Captives can be fed commercial waterfowl diet, supplemented with greens, insects/worms, and vitamins and minerals.

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: unknown Females: unknown

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: 20 Years Females: 20 Years

Species Fact Sheets

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 1-2 Years Females: 1-2 Years

Courtship Displays: Males swim ahead of the females, whistling, occasionally engaging in preening display, showing of their wing iridescence

Nest Site Description: Nest in sedges or hummocks, occasionally in tree cavities.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: Eggs are pale cream, measuring 5 by 3.5 centimeters and weighing 31 grams.

Incubation Period: 25 Days

Fledgling Period: 50-60 Days

Parental Care: Female alone incubates the eggs, but males assist in care. In captivity, males sometimes raise the ducklings entirely on their own, freeing up females to brood a second clutch

Chick Development: Chicks are insectivorous

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Pairs or Small Flocks

Social Structure in Captivity: Pairs or Small Flocks

Minimum Group Size: Pair

Maximum Group Size: Small Flocks

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes **Comments:** Have been successfully mixed with other waterfowl, small primates, agoutis.

Optimal Habitat Size: 100 Square Feet for a Pair

Management Challenges: Somewhat cold sensitive, especially on the feet. Males may become somewhat combative towards other ducks during the breeding season, so make sure the exhibit is large enough and complex enough to allow birds to avoid or escape one another. Hybridization with dabbling ducks is possible. There tends to be low clutch survivability in captivity.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Brazilian teals measure 35-40 centimeters in length and weigh 350-600 grams. There are two recognized subspecies: the nominate, or northern subspecies, which is slightly smaller, and the southern subspecies, *A. b. ipecutiri*, which is slightly larger. The two subspecies are often hybridized in captivity. In both subspecies, both sexes are brown, while the drakes differ from females by having red beaks and legs. There are patches of metallic green on the wings, visible only when the wing is extended. There is no true eclipse plumage, but non-breeding plumage is duller.

Brazilian teals frequent heavily vegetated lagoons surrounded by woodlands, though they are occasionally found in brackish or coastal waters. In the wild, the species is usually found in small family groups, sometimes

Species Fact Sheets

in association with ibises or whistling ducks. Nests are often built in vegetation near or surrounded by the water, but sometimes are in tree hollows or on cliff faces. The northern subspecies is sedentary, but the southernmost birds of the southern one will sometimes migrate, traveling as far north as Venezuela.

The species is the only member of the genus *Amazonetta*. Previously, it was considered to be one of the perching ducks. Recent genetic analysis has suggested that Brazilian teals are more closely related to the South American dabbling ducks.

Brazilian teals occupy a large portion of South America, including much of the north and east of the continent. Though they are hunted in some areas – either for food or as a crop pest – their population is considered secure, in some places being one of the most common ducks. The species is listed as being of Least Concern by the IUCN.

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