

Wood Duck

Aix sponsa



WHY ARE THEY CALLED WOOD DUCKS?

They get their name from their habit of nesting in trees. Many people like to put up wood duck boxes that mimic a tree cavity, or hole in a tree. Just one day after they're born, the babies have to jump out to follow their mom!

ARE THE MALES THAT COLORFUL ALL YEAR?

No. The males (called "drakes") are very colorful to when they're showing off for the females from late fall to early summer. The rest of the year they grow more gray feathers so they can blend in and be safer with camouflage.



HOW DO YOU IDENTIFY A FEMALE WOOD DUCK?

The most recognizable features on a female are her white eye ring and white throat. Like many bird species, the females have duller colors so they can blend in while caring for their young.

DID YOU KNOW?

Some wood duck moms will just lay their eggs in another wood duck's nest and consider her work done!



NATURE CENTER
AT SHAKER LAKES