

American Widgeon

Anas americana

General Information:

-This species is identified in flight by the bold white patches on its forewings, which are gray on females, and the white under-wing linings. The male has a conspicuous white forehead and crown, leading hunters to nickname it “baldpate.” Both males and females are more rusty brown on the breast and sides than other dabbling ducks.

Song:

-Throaty whistle, *whew, whew, whew*. The female makes a guttural quack.

Behavior:

-A dabbler that flies in tight flocks that may twist and turn like those of teals. It eats plant material and will graze on shore and in fields. It is often found in shallow water with other ducks of differing species.



Breeding:

-Monogamous and solitary. The American Widgeon nests on dry land, sometimes far away from the water, but often on small islands.

Nesting:

-Incubation 22-25 days by the female. The precocial young stay in the nest for 45-63 days and are fed by the female. The American Widgeon has 1 brood per year.

Population:

-Common and apparently stable.

Conservation:

-No issues at present; carefully monitored and managed.

Shoreline Restoration Issues:

-If you would like to create an environment friendly to the American Widgeon I would suggest planting some Wild Celery, White and Yellow Water Buttercup, Lily Pads, Sago Pondweed, 3-Way Sedge, and Water Smartweed in the lakebed and Wool-Grass, Sweet Flag, Blue Flag Iris, Swamp White Oak, and Swamp Rose along the shoreline.