



male

female



is a Blue-winged teal

You were banded at Frank Lake near High River, Alberta one late summer day just after you learned to fly.

Your parents had arrived in Alberta in the spring after a long migration from their wintering home far to the south. After mating, your mother laid you and nine other eggs in a nest hidden by prairie grasses. Your mom chose a spot near a wetland, so she could feed every day on the rich **invertebrates** and **plant seeds** she liked to eat during nesting.

Once you had grown your **flight feathers**, it was time to migrate south to the wetlands along the **Gulf Coast** of Louisiana and Texas, U.S.A. Since you are a small duck, your family was one of the first species to fly south when the weather turned cold. Some blue-winged teal fly all the way to **Mexico** and South American countries like Venezuela. There, people speak Spanish, and call you a "pato" (which means duck).

Conservation note: Blue-winged teals are the second most common duck in North America. However, its population drops when there are long periods of drought, which dry up some of the small pothole wetlands they depend on during nesting.

Banding or marking ducks is one way for scientists to learn about them and what they need to survive. Learn how you can help by visiting education.ducks.ca

WOW
Some blue-winged teal migrate all the way to South American countries like Brazil and Peru for the winter.



Ducks Unlimited Canada
Conserving Canada's Wetlands

Active by nature.