## blue-winged teal

## Spatula discors

Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Chordata

Class: Aves

Order: Anseriformes Family: Anatidae

#### **ILLINOIS STATUS**

common, native

### **ILLINOIS RANGE**





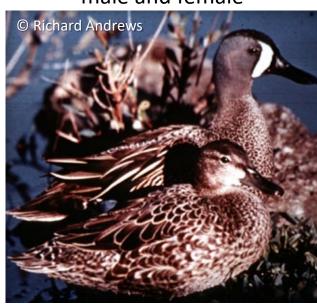
#### **FEATURES**

The blue-winged teal is 14 to 16 inches in length. Both sexes have dull-brown feathers and a powder-blue wing patch. In spring, the male has dark blue head feathers with a white, crescent moon-shaped patch between the bill and eye.

#### **BEHAVIORS**

The blue-winged teal is a common migrant through Illinois. It is a common summer resident in the northern two-thirds of the state. This bird winters as far south as Peru and Guyana. It occasionally winters in the southern one-third of Illinois. The blue-winged teal lives in and around ponds, lakes, sloughs, flooded fields, ditches and marshes. This species eats aquatic plants, mollusks (snails, mussels) and aquatic insects. Its call is "kick, kick, kick, kick." This bird flies very fast. It arrives in Illinois on its northward migration from late February through May. The blue-winged teal nests as far north as Canada. In Illinois, the species nests primarily in the northern two-thirds of the state although nests have been found statewide. Nests are built on the ground near a pond or in a marsh. Six to 11 white or green eggs are laid in May or June. Southern migration begins as early as July.

### male and female









# **Aquatic Habitats**

lakes, ponds and reservoirs; rivers and streams; temporary water supplies; swamps; marshes

**Woodland Habitats** 

none

**Prairie and Edge Habitats** edge