

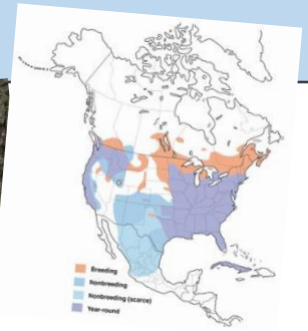
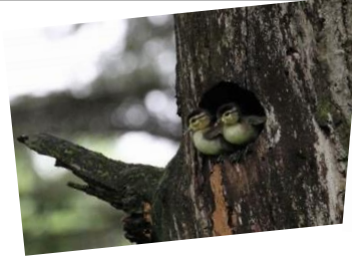
# WOOD DUCK

*Aix sponsa*



## HABITAT

Wood ducks like areas with a mix of water and forests, and can be found in ponds, rivers, lakes, and wetlands. Wood ducks nest and raise their young in **tree cavities** (holes in trees) like the photo to the right.



## DIET

As **juveniles** (young birds), they eat a lot of **invertebrates** (animals lacking a spine) and some small fish. As they get older they become more **herbivorous** (plant-eating). They eat seeds, nuts, plant material, and invertebrates.



## BEHAVIOR

Wood ducks **forage** (search) for food in wetlands and bodies of water, sometimes individually and sometimes in groups with other duck species. When nesting, females line their nest with their own plucked feathers. They lay an average of 15 eggs!



## FUN FACTS

Ducklings hatch in a tree cavity or nest box often quite high above the ground. They have to jump out of the cavity and bounce safely on the **plant litter** (layer of leaves, sticks, and plants on the ground) below. They follow their mother to water and finish growing up in the water, away from their nest cavity.

