

# Carolina Wood Duck

*Aix sponsa*



One of the best known ducks, the Carolina Duck is found in West, Central and South-East North America to Western Cuba.

Found in Freshwater Swamps, Marshes, Pools, Lakes and Slow Rivers surrounded by dense vegetation, the Carolina Wood Duck is known around the world. Due to overhunting the world population reached a low in the 1930's. Legal protection of them and their habitats, combined with intensive provision of nest-boxes, started to give results almost immediately. Numbers increased dramatically to a peak of 1.3 Million in 1976.

No global estimates have been made since then, but increase has probably continued, though at a slower pace. However, the situation in the southern part of its breeding range is far from ideal, as there have been significant decreases resulting mainly from habitat destruction – drainage of wetlands, felling of trees etc.



**Lifespan:** 15 Years

**Weight:** 482 - 879 g

**Size:** 43 - 51 cm

**Breeding Season:** Starts February - April

**Incubation Period:** 30 Days

**Number of Chicks:** 9 - 15

**Diet:** Acorns, Nuts, Seeds, Green parts of Aquatic Plants

**Problems They Face:** Hunting, Drainage of Wetlands, Habitat Destruction

**Conservation Status:** Not Globally Threatened