

Mandarin Duck

Aix galericulata



Distinctive in appearance, the Mandarin Duck is found in South-east Russia, North-east China and Japan. It has also been introduced to Southern England.

Found in Pools, Lakes, Rivers, Marshes and Swamps surrounded by dense deciduous forests, they have a preference for Small Islands and Water Bodies with abundant vegetation. They tend to breed in single pairs and nest in tree hollows. The chicks are independent at around 45 days and reach sexual maturity at around 1 year of age.

They were once very common resident in Japan but their numbers greatly declined due to overhunting. They recovered after protection in 1947 with a notable increase in the wintering population but it is not known if this is because of an increased breeding population or just visiting birds but still considered uncommon in Japan. The British feral population is estimated to be around 7 000 birds and increasing.



Lifespan: 15 Years

Weight: 444 - 500 g

Size: 41 - 51 cm

Breeding Season: Starts in April

Incubation Period: 28 - 30 Days

Number of Chicks: 9 - 12

Diet: Seeds, particularly Nuts, Acorns and Grain, Aquatic Plants and Animal Food.

Problems They Face: Overhunting, Habitat Destruction, Pesticides, Exploitation

Conservation Status: Not Globally Threatened