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Kale, H. W., II, B. Pranty, B. M. Stith, and C. W. Biggs. 1992. The atlas of the breeding birds of Florida. Final Report. Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, Tallahassee, Florida.

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Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

The Blue-winged Teal, a bird of the northern prairies, has a large breeding range that extends across the eastern United States from Texas to the Canadian Arctic and from the Atlantic Coast to the Rocky Mountains (Bellrose 1980). Some winter in the southeastern United States; however, northern South and Central America comprise the primary winter range.

Habitat. About 70% of the Blue-winged Teal's diet is composed of vegetable matter such as seeds and grasses. Insects, snails, and crustaceans make up the remainder of its diet (Howell 1932).

Blue-winged Teals nest on the ground near water. The nest is a hollow lined with vegetation and down. The typical clutch consists of 8 to 12 white to olive-white eggs. The eggs are laid at daily intervals, and incubation begins when the last egg is laid. Incubation, by the hen alone, lasts about 24 days. The brood is led to water soon after hatching, and they are capable of flight at 35 to 44 days of age (Terres 1980).

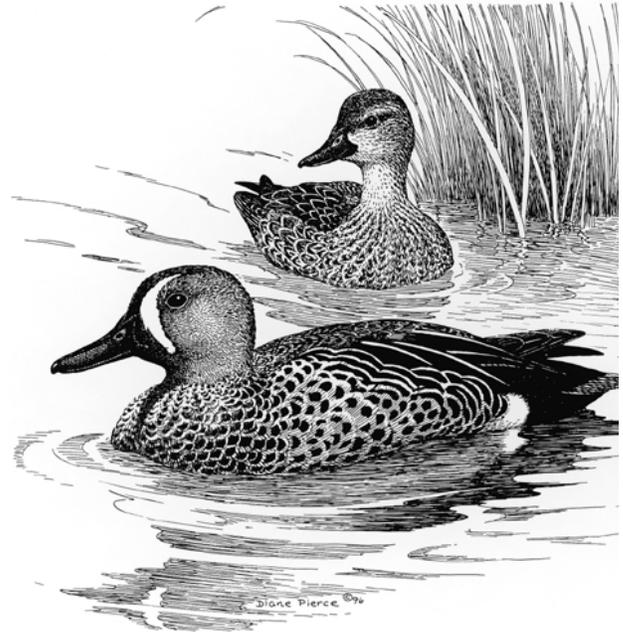


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Seasonal Occurrence. Blue-winged Teals arrive as early as August or even July in Florida and migrate north in March and April.

Status. The Blue-winged Teal is a common winter resident of Florida, but it is a rare and unpredictable breeder. Howell (1932) listed only 2 breeding records, one in Brevard County (no year listed) and one from Lake Apopka in 1916. Five other pre-Atlas breeding records occurred: Lakeland in 1968; St. Cloud, Osceola County in 1968; Hamilton County in 1979 and 1980; and Seminole County in 1983 (Stevenson and Anderson 1994).

Because they breed irregularly in Florida, and because of the presence of summering non-breeders and hunting season cripples, only confirmed breeding records; 5 in all were accepted.

The first Atlas record was discovered in the Punta Gorda Quadrangle in Charlotte County on 24 July 1987, when Helen Howell observed 3 young on the Burnt Store Golf Course. In mid-July, a pair with 2 young was seen on the Hillsborough River in Tampa (Paul 1987), and R. David Goodwin and Joyce King observed a pair with 5 young in Washington County on 30 May, 1988. In 1991, a nest was found in the Ft. Walton Beach Spray Field in Okaloosa County (fide Don Ware).

Robert W. Loftin

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