
Northern Pintail

Anas acuta

Class: *Aves*

Order: *Anseriformes*

Family: *Anatidae*

Characteristics:

A dabbling duck with slim lines and a long neck, the male pintail has a characteristic extremely long, pointed tail and a distinct chocolate brown head with a white neck stripe that continues down the breast. The female is brown in color but has the similar sleek appearance and long neck as the male ([Cornell](#)).

Behavior:

Pintails are considered one of the most handsome ducks and are very graceful. They are even quite agile on land, compared to other ducks. They are quiet birds which emit low, mellow calls. They are opportunistic omnivores that will make the best of the food sources they can find ([Arkive](#)).

Reproduction:

Pintails make ground nests in open areas near wetlands, but usually not close to the water. The average clutch size is 8 eggs ([Ducks Unlimited](#)).

Diet:

Wild: Aquatic plants, seeds, and take advantage of waste grain

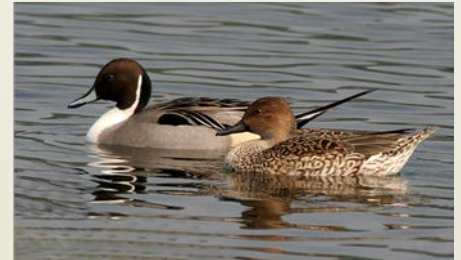
Zoo: Scratch grains, greens, waterfowl pellets

Conservation:

Pintails were once the most common duck in America, but have declined in the last 50 years. However, due to their widespread range they are listed as Least Concern in IUCN.

FYI:

Like mallards, pintails are very wide spread, found throughout North America and Eurasia.



Range & Habitat:

Open country with shallow wetlands. In winter they can also be found in intertidal habitats.



Lifespan: up to 25 years in captivity, 2-5 years in the wild.

Special Adaptations: They are nicknamed “greyhound of the air” because of their sleek, slim body shape.

IUCN Conservation Status:

Least Concern

