

Spring Tales Newsletter

The Wood Duck Edition



Written by
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Education
Coordinator



Wood Ducks are named after their preferred nesting spaces; trees! Wood Ducks will nest in tree cavities, as well as man-made nest boxes like shown above!



Photo by Philip Robertson

Drakes are brightly colored to help them attract females. Hens are brown to help them camouflage with their nest.



Photo by Robert Franco

Wood Ducks almost went extinct in the 1800's due to habitat destruction, but thanks to programs like CWA's Wood Duck Program, Wood Ducks are thriving!

Look out Below!

Wood Ducks eggs have to be incubated for about one month. Once that month is up, the first egg will hatch, and the others generally hatch within 24 hours of the first egg. After that 24 hours, the mom Hen will go out of the nest and call out her babies one by one.

After that, the ducklings have to jump out of the nest! Most Wood Duck nests are anywhere from 2 to 65 feet in the air! Ducklings do not have flight feathers at this stage in their life cycle, so the duckling's very first day into the universe they are basically free - falling out of a tree! No need to worry though! Because the ducklings are so new, and light, and fluffy, they can actually drop the 65 feet and be totally fine!

Once they do this crazy drop, they will go meet mom, and she will begin teaching them how to catch their own food.



Photo by Larry Simpson

Quick Fact:

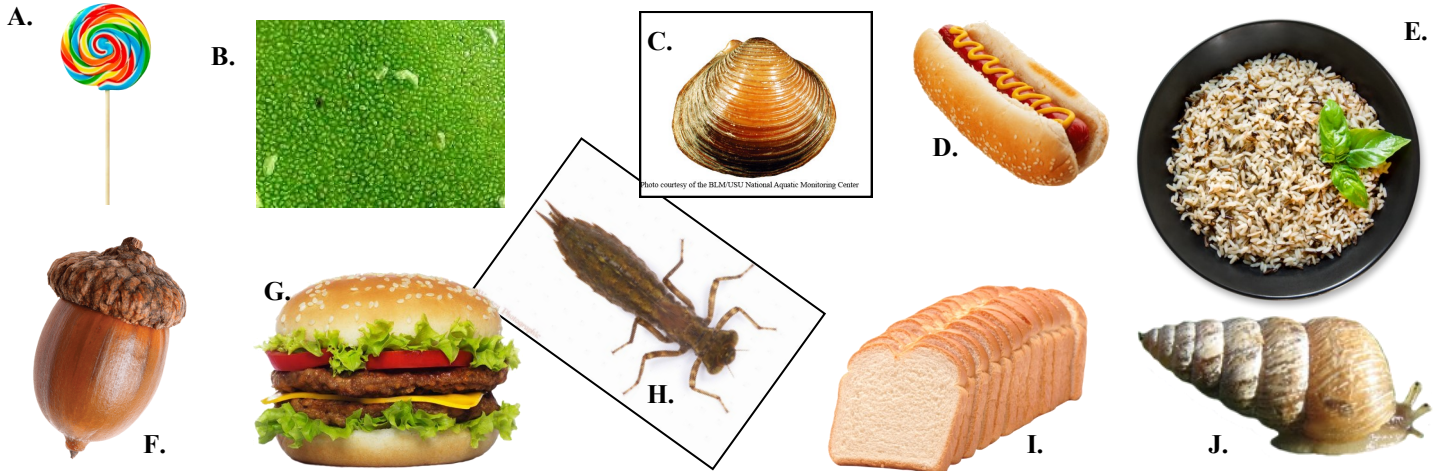
Wood Ducks have sharp toe-nails to help them climb and grip while they are up in trees. Can you imagine climbing around in a tree with flippers on?



Photo by John A Haig

Food for Thought

Wood Ducks eat a variety of foods depending on the season, availability, and habitat they are in. Look at the foods below, and circle the items that you think wood ducks like to snack on in the wild!



Answers: B, C, E, F, H, J



Check out
www.calwaterfowl.org
to learn more about
what you can do to help
wood ducks!

According to Ducks.org, “Female wood ducks must ingest 75 grams of invertebrates to obtain enough protein and minerals to produce one egg. To acquire these nutrients, the birds must consume more than 300 invertebrates an hour for eight hours.” That means that a hen wood duck has to eat 3,000 bugs to lay one egg! That is A LOT of bugs! Wood ducks also like to eat wild rice, acorns, snails, freshwater clams, water meal, and so much more!



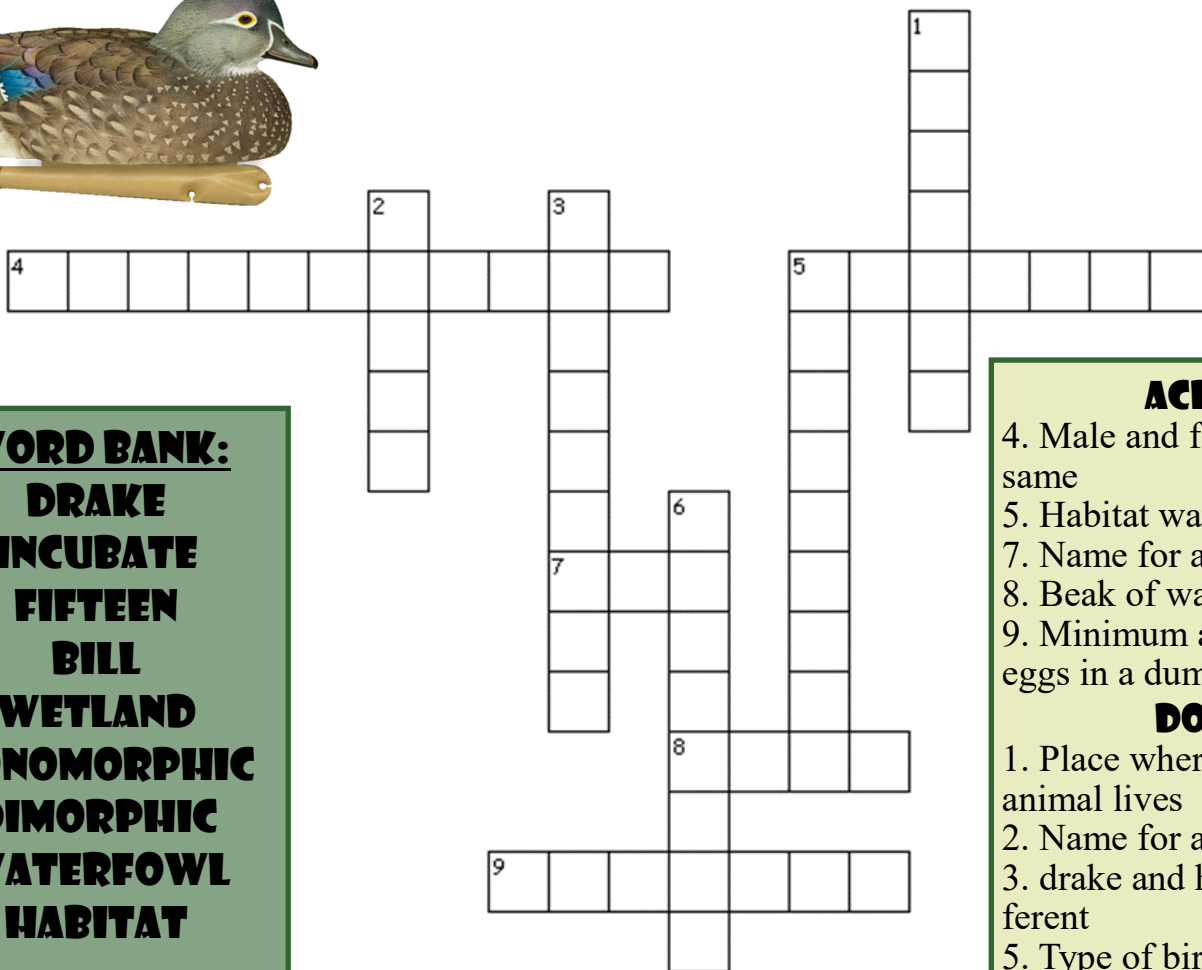
**3,000 AQUATIC
BUGS**

twinkl.com

=

**1
EGG**

WOOD DUCK CROSSWORD



WORD BANK:

DRAKE
INCUBATE
FIFTEEN
BILL
WETLAND
MONOMORPHIC
DIMORPHIC
WATERFOWL
HABITAT

ACROSS

4. Male and female look the same
5. Habitat waterfowl live in
7. Name for a female duck
8. Beak of waterfowl
9. Minimum amount of eggs in a dump nest

DOWN

1. Place where a plant or animal lives
2. Name for a male duck
3. drake and hen look different
5. Type of bird that has spoon-shaped bill, webbed feet, and long neck

Answer Key: 1. Habitat, 2. Drake, 3. Dimorphic, 4. Monomorphic, 5. Wetland, 6. Incubate, 7. Hen, 8. Bill, 9. Fifteen

For more information on our education programs or to get involved,
 contact Molly Maupin, Education Coordinator at (916) 648-1406 Ext. 121 or mmaupin@calwaterfowl.org

For more information and our calendar of events go to www.calwaterfowl.org

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