

Twycross Zoo Animal Information Sheet

Common Name: Ringed teal

Scientific Name: *Callonetta leucophrys*



Physical Appearance.

The male has a characteristic buff brown chest, covered in speckles. The face is light brown and there is a dark brown hood. The flanks are slate grey and the underside is white. His upper body is chestnut brown. The tail is black and there are patches of white on the rump. There is a flash of green at the end of the wing. The female is barred with white and brown on the breast and flanks shading to white underneath. The tail is black and she also has the white patches on the rump and the flash of green. The head is dark brown with a white stripe by the eye and white cheeks with a brown centre. Bother sexes have orange feet. The bill in the male is grey with a black tip, in the females it is beige with a black upper marking. Measure 35 - 38 cm and weigh 190 - 360 g.

Habitat and Distribution.

The ringed teal is found in Bolivia and South Brazil to north Argentina and Uganda. They inhabit swampy tropical forest areas and areas where there is plenty of tree cover.



Distribution of the ringed teal

Diet.

The ring teal feeds mainly from the surface on a variety of items including seeds. In the shallow water they put their head under the surface to catch items.

Sociality and Breeding.

The ring necked teal female constructs a nest in a tree hollow or in a disused stick nest. She lays between 6 - 12 eggs which are incubated for between 26 - 28 days. The ringed teal has claws on its feet which enables it to perch in trees and move around at ease. The male and female take turns to incubate the eggs and care for the young. The chicks come out of the tree nest attracted by calls from their mother and plunge to the ground or the water below. They fledge within 50 - 55 days and follow the adults to the winter feeding grounds.