

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Anseriformes
Scientific Name: Marmaronetta angustirostris

Family: Anatidae
Common Name: Marbled teal

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Southern Spain/Mallorca, Mediterranean basin, sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East, Northwest India, Africa Australia Other

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other Freshwater lakes and ponds; brackish water; marshes

Circadian Cycle: Diurnal Crepuscular Nocturnal Other Forages mainly nocturnally at certain times of the year, with records showing a spike in nocturnal activity November-March

Cold Tolerance: To 70° F To 60° F To 50° F To 40° F
 To 30° F To 20° F Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F To 50° F To 70° F To 90° F
 To 110° F Other Hardy ducks; can withstand below freezing temperatures as long as they have running water. Heat sources and dry areas/perches free of snow and ice should be offered during winter months, where applicable.

Diet: Frugivore Carnivore Piscivore Insectivore
 Nectivore Omnivore Folivore Other (Add Below)

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Captive Dietary Needs:

Marbled teal will readily take commercial waterfowl pellets, such as Mazuri. It is recommended to offer a maintenance pellet during non-breeding months (typically ~August-March) and a breeder pellet during breeding (~April-July). They eagerly forage for mealworms, crickets, and other insects. Marbled teal will readily consume romaine or other greens (especially floating on water) and white proso millet sprinkled in or near water, or offered as sprigs of spray millet. Birds will forage on duckweed and other aquatic vegetation, if available.

Life Expectancy in the Wild:	Males:	~6-10 years	Females:	~6-10 years
Life Expectancy in Captivity:	Males:	Median is 6 years, with oldest recorded male from SSP population being 19	Females:	Median is 5.4 years, with oldest recorded female from SSP population reaching 20

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity:	Males:	~1 year	Females:	~1 year
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Courtship Displays: Males court females by performing a quick movement in where he draws his neck back, flares the crest at the back of his head, and emits a soft but high-pitched single nasally, whistly 'eeeeep' call.

Nest Site Description: Made by female only. Slight depression in ground nestled amongst plants (grasses, shrubs, etc.). Nest is lined with adjacent vegetation and, once incubation begins, down. Typically near or above water in thick grasses. In captivity, they take ready to standard porchbox-style duck boxes. They will use boxes on the ground or lofted up on logs, with preference being above or near water features. Pine shavings, hay, dry grasses, or other soft material can be used to fill the bottom of the box.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 7-14 pale straw-colored eggs, incubated by the female alone. Egg size is typically 42-51mm x 32-36mm, with a weight between 25.5-34.5g. Easily candled with candler, flashlight, cell phone flashlight, field candler, etc.

Incubation Period:	25-27 days	Fledgling Period:	Click here to enter text.
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Parental Care: Once ducklings hatch, the female is the main protector and caregiver. Sometimes, the male will assist in guarding the brood, but he typically deserts the female and young. Brood amalgamation and brood parasitism has been reported.

Chick Development: Ducklings hatch synchronously and fledge around 55-56 days of age. They take to water after they have hatched and dried, ~24-48 hours, and are precocial like other waterfowl species.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

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Social Structure in the Wild: Forms seasonal monogamous pair bonds in the winter/early spring. Will flock together in small groups or pairs.

Social Structure in Captivity: Best kept in pairs or groups. Bachelor and same-sex groups have been done successfully and easily.

Minimum Group Size: 2 birds

Maximum Group Size: No maximum

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes

Comments:

Mixes well with other species and complements mixed aviaries well. Unobtrusive and generally shier than some other species.

Optimal Habitat Size: 100 square feet per pair

Management Challenges: Generally hardy. Need open water, heat, and shelter options during winter in colder climates where below freezing temperatures occur for prolonged periods of time.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Marbled teal are interesting in that taxonomists are divided into two camps: one that believes they are more closely related to pochards, while the other believes they should remain in the genus *Anas*. They lack a speculum and do not experience a molt into an eclipse plumage. Marbled teal do not dive often, but they are adept at it and will do so in order to escape threats.

This species inhabits regions of the world that have historically been plagued with violence and warfare. Drainage of wetlands, illegal hunting pressure, and hydrological changes resulting in drying of breeding areas before ducklings have fledged all work against the marbled teal. They are currently listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN, with the Spanish population being listed as Critically Endangered. Estimates from 2002 and 2016 state that the global population is around 55,000-61,000 individuals with a decreasing trend.

Active conservation efforts are in place for this species, though the most recent Species Action Plan was published in 2008. Nature Iraq has conducted extensive population surveys, public education, and hunter awareness programs between 2005-2010. European conservation efforts and research is currently being done in Spain, with a recent paper having been published in 2017.

If you are interested in learning more about housing this species, please contact SSP Coordinator Harrison Edell (Harrison.edell@dallaszoo.org) and/or Vice Coordinator Joanna Klass (Joanna.klass@zoo.org).

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REFERENCES:

Handbook of Birds of the World – Marbled teal : <https://www.hbw.com/species/marbled-teal-marmaronetta-angustirostris>

IUCN Redlist – Marbled teal : <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/22680339/110054350>

2018 Marbled Teal SSP Breeding and Transfer Plan : <https://ams.aza.org/iweb/upload/TealMarbledYellowSSP2018Final-a0742e47.pdf>

Habitat selection of Marbled Teal and White-headed Duck during the breeding and wintering seasons in south-eastern Spain (2012) : https://www.researchgate.net/publication/230865925_Habitat_selection_of_Marbled_Teal_and_White-headed_Duck_during_the_breeding_and_wintering_seasons_in_south-eastern_Spain

The status and conservation of the Marbled Teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris* (2017) : https://www.researchgate.net/publication/314500774_The_status_and_conservation_of_the_Marbled_Teal_Marmaronetta_angustirostris

Species action plan for the Marbled Teal *Marmaronetta angustirostris* in the European Union (2008): https://www.researchgate.net/publication/265208417_Species_action_plan_for_the_Marbled_Teal_Marmaronetta_angustirostris_in_the_European_Union

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