

If You Build It—They Will Come

Ducks that nest in hollow trees? Wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*) do just that! Populations of this colorful waterbird plummeted due to habitat loss and overhunting, but conservation has allowed populations to rebound. Park staff and volunteers provide nest-boxes as alternative nest sites, and monitor their success. It didn't take long for ducks to move in!



Home Sweet Home

Hens lay one egg each day for 12-14 days before starting incubation—ensuring the eggs will hatch at the same time.



Taking the Plunge

After hatching, the ducklings spend one day in the nest-box. They leap up to the exit and...jump! The fall doesn't harm them, and they rush towards the water's safety.



Helping Hands

Volunteers help park staff by building nest-boxes, monitoring, removing non-native bird and squirrel nests, counting eggs, and recording hatches.



♀ female or hen

♂ male or drake

Adapted for Tree Dwelling

Wood ducks are small and maneuverable, have large eyes to spot branches in-flight, and have feet for climbing and swimming. Look for these unusual and colorful ducks along streams and lakes.



Wood Duck Program Website
California Waterfowl Association