The **Wood Duck** is one of the most stunningly pretty of all waterfowl. Males are iridescent chestnut and green, with ornate patterns on nearly every feather; the elegant females have a distinctive profile and delicate white pattern around the eye. These birds live in wooded swamps, where they nest in holes in trees or in nest boxes put up around lake margins. They are one of the few duck species equipped with strong claws that can grip bark and perch on branches.

**Song**:Although better known for their distinctive coloration, Wood Duck calls are easily identifiable as well. Females make loud “oo-eek, oo-eek” sounds when disturbed and when taking flight. Male Wood Ducks have a thin, rising and falling zeeting whistle. While flying, the wings of the wood duck make a whistling or whirring sound (Description adapted from text created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology; https://www.alllaboutbirds.org/guide/wood\_duck)*.*

**To hear an audio recording of the Wood Duck, captured by Paul Driver, visit Xeno-canto (https://www.xeno-canto.org/182950), or download the fully interactive PDF of this issue’s Birds of the Prairie feature by using the hyperlink at the bottom of the web page.**