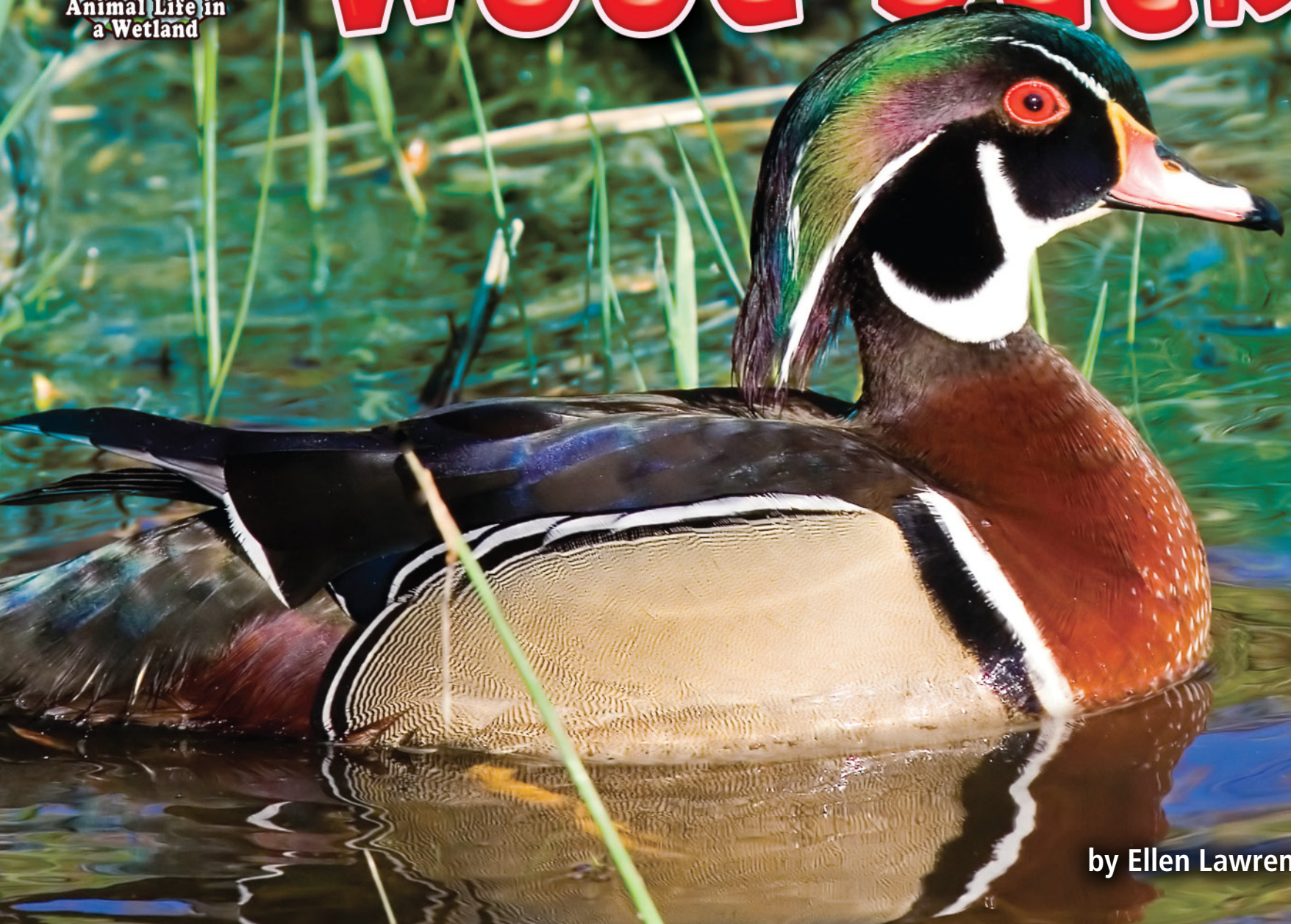




# Wood Duck



by Ellen Lawrence

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# Wood Duck

by Ellen Lawrence

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# Splash Down!

It's spring in the Atchafalaya (uh-chaf-uh-LYE-uh) Swamp.

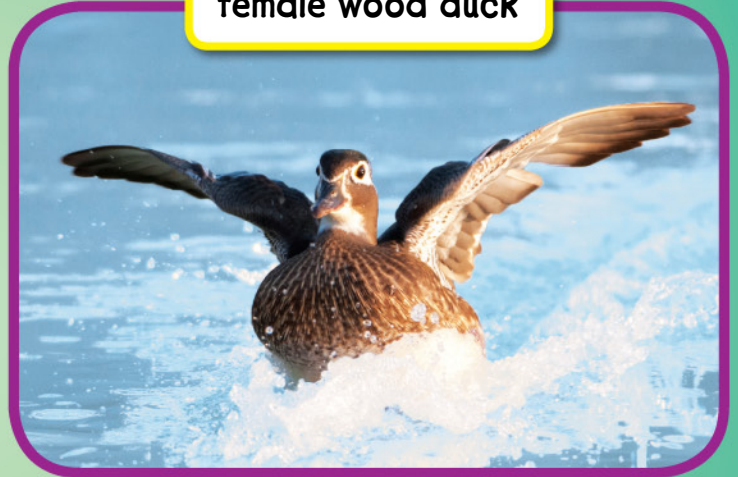
A female wood duck flies between some trees.

Then she lands on the water with a loud splash!

Within seconds, there's another splash as a male duck lands beside her.

Then the pair of ducks swims off to search for food.

female wood duck



male wood duck



Why do you think these birds are called wood ducks?



A male and female Mandarin duck are swimming in blue water. The male duck, on the left, has vibrant green, red, and white plumage. The female duck, on the right, has brown and white plumage. Both ducks have distinctive white eye-rings. A yellow arrow points from the word 'drake' to the male duck, and another yellow arrow points from the word 'hen' to the female duck.

drake

A male duck is  
called a drake.  
A female duck is  
called a hen.

hen



# A Wood Duck's World

Wood ducks are water birds that make their homes in North America.


They live in watery places such as streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes.

Their favorite places to live are swamps like the Atchafalaya.

In a swamp, lots of trees and bushes grow from the water-covered land.





A wood duck is shown swimming in a body of water, likely a swamp. The duck has brown and white mottled feathers and a distinctive white stripe on its head. Its reflection is clearly visible in the calm water. The background is filled with lush green vegetation, including tall grasses and ferns.

Wood ducks make  
their nests in trees.  
That's how they got  
their name.

a wood duck in a swamp