

Maned Duck Video Transcript

Here is a pair of Maned Ducks, also known as Australian Wood Ducks - often seen living in and around our suburbs, along creeks and ponds. They can sometimes be seen taking their ducklings for a paddle as the ducklings quickly adapt to being on the water after they have hatched in the hollows of nearby trees and tumbled to the ground below.

When they feed on land their parents keep them together in a group and stand guard to chase away anything that might endanger their ducklings.

The parents also show their ducklings what to eat and how to eat it.

They continue to follow their parents to find new sources of food and sometimes they feed quite close to roads but always under the watchful eye of at least one of their parents.

After feeding, the ducklings need to rest and huddle together for warmth and security with their parents close by.

They also go on paddling expeditions with their parents to find food such as water plants, small fish, snails, small crabs and mosquito larvae in creeks and ponds.

While they are paddling on the water, they are also kept safer from predators like cats and dogs though marine predators like eels could still be a threat. Whether the ducklings are on the water or on land they seem to instinctively realise it's best to stay close to their parents, whether they are feeding or not.

Now they are much bigger, but they still stay close to their parents.

After only a few months they are almost fully grown and ready to fly away or paddle away to live their own lives and become independent adult ducks and in time, have babies of their own.