

# Species Fact Sheets

**Order:** Anseriformes  
**Scientific Name:** *Nettapus coromandelianus*

**Family:** Anatidae  
**Common Name:** Indian (cotton) pygmy goose

**AZA Management:**  Green  Yellow  Red  None

**Photo (Male):**



**Photo (Female):**



## NATURAL HISTORY:

**Geographic Range:** Europe  Asia  North America  Neotropical   
 Africa  Australia  Other Two subspecies recognized.

**Habitat:** Forest  Desert  Grassland  Coastal   
 Riverine  Montane  Other Permanent ponds, lakes and lagoons supporting submerged vegetation are preferred. Tend to avoid running water due to absence of vegetation.

**Circadian Cycle:** Diurnal  Crepuscular  Nocturnal  Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

**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 100 F

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

### Captive Dietary Needs:

Mazuri waterfowl maintenance or breeder (depending on breeding status), Mazuri gamebird, millet, seed, chopped greens. Does well with duck weed (especially ducklings), may receive mealworms or small crickets in some cases.

**Life Expectancy in the Wild:** Males: 10-15 years (data deficient) Females: 10-15 years (data deficient)

**Life Expectancy in Captivity:** Males: 10-15 years Females: 10-15 years

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## BREEDING INFORMATION:

**Age at Sexual Maturity:** Males: ~2 years of age Females: ~ 2 years of age

**Courtship Displays:** Female may solicit male with head-bobbing and vocalizations. Mutual bill-dipping may also occur.

**Nest Site Description:** Elevated tree hollows in or near water in the wild. Will use a variety of nest box designs located near water in captive settings. Vegetation has also been used in some cases.

**Clutch Size, Egg Description:** 6-14 creamy white eggs, sometimes initially olive-tinged. Weigh approximately 27g.

**Incubation Period:** 21-24 (average of 23, but up to 28 days has been recorded).

**Fledging Period:** 45-55 days

**Parental Care:** Female incubates. Both parents stay with ducklings until fledging occurs.

**Chick Development:** Brown upper areas and white abdomen, with dark head cap and relatively long tail at hatching. Can weigh between 12-18g at hatch and can range from 175-225g at fledging.

## CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

**Social Structure in the Wild:** Usually encountered in pairs or small groups

**Social Structure in Captivity:** Typically housed in pairs

**Minimum Group Size:** 2

**Maximum Group Size:** Depends on size of habitat and composition of the group.

**Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:** Yes

**Comments:** Do well in mixed species settings as long as they have plenty of visual barriers and separate nesting areas.

**Optimal Habitat Size:** Do well in a variety of habitats, as long as they have plenty of access to water, visual barriers and vegetation, and can separate themselves for nesting. As they are highly aquatic, they need more water space than land space.

**Management Challenges:** Have been difficult to breed successfully in many cases, and ducklings have low survival rates. Wet brooding has improved duckling survival. Sub-optimal

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housing situations occur with limited water space and birds can be stressed by proximity to humans (including care staff, in some cases). Need to be kept fully winged.

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

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## REFERENCES:

Todd, Frank S. Natural History of Waterfowl. Ibis Publishing company, California. (1996)

Scott, P. A Colored Key of the Wildfowl of the World. Slimbridge, England. The Wildfowl Trust. (1978)

Photo credits: male-Keith Lovett, Buttonwood Park Zoo; female-Jacob Kraemer, Pinola Conservancy.

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