

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Anseriformes
Scientific Name: *Branta sandvicensis*

Family: Anatidae
Common Name: Hawaiian (Nene) Goose

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other Native to the Hawaiian islands

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

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 [Click here to enter text.](#)

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

Captive Dietary Needs:
 Waterfowl maintenance/breeder, fresh chopped greens (Romaine/Kale)

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: UNK Females: UNK

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: 20-30 years Females: 20-30 years

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BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 2 Years Females: 2 Years

Courtship Displays: Copulation takes place on land.

Nest Site Description: Vegetated areas for natural security; birds in the wild usually create a “scrape” nest, in captivity birds like to nest in triangular log nests. Birds often nest against a stationary object. I.e. Trees, fences or walls.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 3-5 white eggs; eggs are laid on consecutive days until completion of the clutch.

Incubation Period: Female exclusively; 29 days.

Fledgling Period: In the wild chicks usually remain with the parents about 1 full year until the next breeding season occurs. In captivity chicks should be fully winged at about 8 weeks.

Parental Care: Female incubates exclusively and rarely leaves the nest, even to eat. Male acts as sentinel during this period and becomes quite aggressive in his defense of the nest site. The chicks usually remain with the parents about 1 full year until the next breeding season occurs.

Chick Development: Hatch weight ~105g-110g, brownish/green tint at hatch; precocial, they should be supplied with plenty of fresh chopped greens from the start or rearing. Chicks are usually fully winged by 4 months of age.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Semi-gregarious after breeding season has occurred, families flock together as they wander and search for food.

Social Structure in Captivity: Birds tend to form strong pair bonds so 1.1 is an ideal breeding setup, but with the proper sized exhibit multiple pairs could nest and breed. Dominant males will push a less dominate male out of the social structure, but birds that are raised together tend to form strong bonds.

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1.1/2.0/0.2

Minimum Group Size:

Maximum Group Size:

Smaller exhibits should not be over-crowded, juvenile birds can be placed in larger groups until mature. 5 birds in a medium sized exhibit can be cared for quite well but birds must have ample space to nest and retreat to themselves. Over-crowding with mature males can disrupt breeding successful breeding seasons.

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:

Yes

Comments:

Birds can be territorial, but with enough space in an exhibit can live/breed quite nicely in a mixed aviary.

Optimal Habitat Size:

Primarily terrestrial birds should have enough space to exercise their well-adapted legs and feet. A pool ~4ft deep, 10X10 is optimal but birds could adapt to a smaller exhibit if needed.

Management Challenges:

Known to nest in the off season, birds usually lay during milder winter months.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Birds tend to acclimate to human presence very well, they will be highly defensive of mates and nest sites around keepers. If birds are in an exhibit within close proximity to public interaction they are a great species to take advantage of “public feed machines”; if not the case exhibits should allow ample space between the general public and the birds due to their highly social and inquisitive demeanor.

REFERENCES:

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

<http://www.fws.gov/pacificislands/fauna/HIgoose.html>

Photo credits: William Robles

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