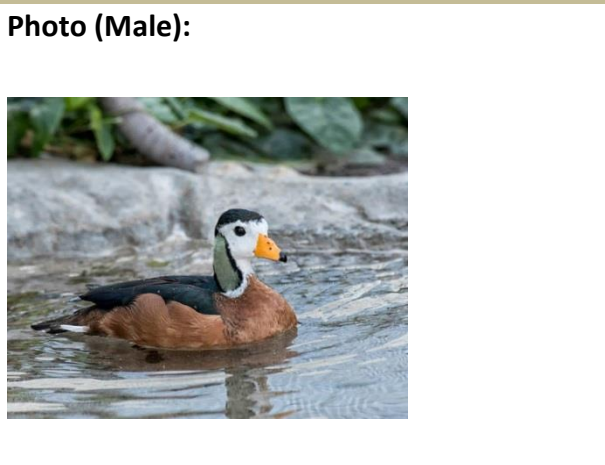


# Species Fact Sheets

**Order:** Anseriformes  
**Scientific Name:** *Nettapus auritus*

**Family:** Anatidae  
**Common Name:** African Pygmy Goose

**AZA Management:**  Green  Yellow  Red  None



**NATURAL HISTORY:**

**Geographic Range:** Europe  Asia  North America  Neotropical   
 Africa  Australia  Other  [Click here to enter text.](#)

**Habitat:** Forest  Desert  Grassland  Coastal   
 Riverine  Montane  Other   
 African swamps, marshes and sluggish rivers supporting an abundance of aquatic vegetation. They prefer quiet, secluded pools with plenty of dense vegetation to camouflage.

**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:**

Mazuri waterfowl maintenance/breeder, millet/red millet and fresh chopped greens (romaine/kale).

**Life Expectancy in the Wild:** Males: ~10-15 years Females: ~10-15 years

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

# Species Fact Sheets

## BREEDING INFORMATION:

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

**Courtship Displays:** Female solicits male frequently with head-bobbing.

**Nest Site Description:** Typically in hollow tree cavities above water, sometimes as high as 60 ft. (in the wild). It is rare for them to nest on land but has been reported in ground vegetation around swampy marshes. Entrance holes range from 2.6" x 2.4" with a nest chamber ~5" in diameter. In captivity birds tend to feel comfortable as cavity nesters, hollow palm logs and porch boxes work very well, although they have been known to utilize ground vegetation and tunnel boxes.

**Clutch Size, Egg Description:** 5-9 Ivory white eggs (up to 12 in some cases); eggs tend to be laid every other day. First eggs in clutch may be olive-tinged

**Incubation Period:** 23-26 days

**Fledgling Period:** 50-60 days

**Parental Care:** Female incubates exclusively, male acts as sentinel during this period. Female broods the chicks on her own, but male will stay nearby. The drake's role in brood care is unknown.

**Chick Development:** Chicks have a stiff tail at hatch, black and white with a black dot on cheek; hatch weights can range from 15g-18g. By 45 days of age, chicks typically weigh ~200g and are full winged.

## CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

**Social Structure in the Wild:** Birds can be semi-gregarious, at times forming groups of 20-200 birds. Larger groups tend to occur during molt and dry seasons.

**Social Structure in Captivity:** Dominant drakes will push a less dominant drake out of the social structure; birds tend to form strong pair bonds so 1.1 is an ideal breeding setup.

**Minimum Group Size:** 1.1

**Maximum Group Size:** 2.2; depending on the size of the pond and breeding setup.

**Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:** Yes

**Comments:**

Birds can be kept and bred successfully in a mixed exhibit but care should be taken not to overcrowd the exhibit as well as to provide plenty of visual barriers and nesting opportunities.

**Optimal Habitat Size:** Birds do well in a small quiet pool with running fresh water ~4' x 4' and 4 ft. deep, as well as a larger pool with visual barriers in/around the water to help curb some anxious behavior. Perching close/above the water is very helpful to relieve some stress when maintenance is necessary in the ponds.

# Species Fact Sheets

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**Management Challenges:** Charming birds, but can be quite anxious in an aviary that doesn't allow them to have their own private area and/or visual barriers. A more advanced species to breed in captivity although recently, success has been more prominent in zoos across the US. During chick rearing, chicks need quite a bit of stimulation in the first few days after being introduced to food and special attention should be paid to keeping their plumage clean.

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Click here to enter text.

## 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. (1988)

Photo credits: Mike Aguilera, SeaWorld San Diego

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## COMPLETED BY:

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Date: 11/3/2015