

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Anseriformes
Scientific Name: *Neochen jubata*

Family: Anatidae
Common Name: Orinoco Goose

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other
 Live on forest covered riverbanks in damp clearings, west savannas and muddy and sandy margins of large freshwater wetlands.

Circadian Cycle: Diurnal Crepuscular Nocturnal Other
 Mainly eat during the day but have been known to forage at night

Cold Tolerance: To 70° F To 60° F To 50° F To 40° F
 To 30° F To 20° F Other
 As long as they have access to water.

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F To 50° F To 70° F To 90° F
 To 110° F Other
 As long as shade and fresh water are available

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

Captive Dietary Needs:

Primarily herbivores and eats leaves, seed-heads, grass and algae but will feed on insects. In captivity, Mazuri waterfowl pellet (or something similar) is sufficient. Greens can be offered periodically. During breeding season it is suggested to offer Mazuri breeding waterfowl pellet (or something similar). In non-breeding season offer Mazuri maintenance waterfowl pellet (or something similar).

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For ducklings offer Mazuri waterfowl starter pellet (or something similar), slowly weaning them to maintenance by the time they are a month old.

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: 7.8 Females: 7.8

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: 15 Females: 15

BREEDING INFORMATION:

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

Courtship Displays: Ruffled feathers, wing lifting, repeat whistle vocalizations and social preening. Male has high pitched whistling call while female has cackling call. Known to maintain a strong pair bond throughout the year

Nest Site Description: Nest in tree cavities near the water but have been reported to lay eggs on the ground in areas densely covered in grass and other plants close to rivers and wetlands

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 6-10 pale brownish-cream eggs. If there are several breeding females, it has been seen in captivity where 2 females will lay in same nest with one of the females taking sole responsibility for incubating the eggs.

Incubation Period: 30 days

Fledgling Period: Get adult feathers at ~2-3 months of age.

Parental Care: Only the female incubates the eggs but both parents assist in raising offspring. Offspring have been seen with parents a year or more after hatching

Chick Development: Ducklings leave nest cavity shortly after hatching following their parents.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Are usually in pairs but can be seen in larger groups (including family groups)

Social Structure in Captivity: Pairs, groups (single sex and mix sexed)

Minimum Group Size: 2

Maximum Group Size: ~20

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes

Comments:

Can be put with many mammal and bird species without any issues. Remembering that ample space is provided for all animals since they are known to be territorial during breeding season.

Optimal Habitat Size: Due to being a more terrestrial species, ample land space with water body is needed. If flighted (not pinioned) areas are needed where they are able to perch. Need enough area where other birds can get away from them during breeding season.

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Management Challenges: Can show aggression towards other birds especially during mating season.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Although not sexually dimorphic, males are larger than females

Name for the Orinoco river of Venezuela and Columbia which is the longest river in South America.

They are a very terrestrial species preferring to walk, foraging along the riverbanks, edge of wetlands and damp clearings. Ducklings will go into water to flee predators.

REFERENCES:

<http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/22679987/0>

<https://neotropical.birds.cornell.edu/Species-Account/nb/species/origoo1/overview>

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