

GOOSE, EGYPTIAN

RANGE:

Nile Valley through southern Africa; tropical Africa.

HABITAT:

Permanent ponds and rivers. During the rainy season, it extends its range to newly formed ponds on the open plains.

SIZE:

Height: 28 inches.

LIFE EXPECTANCY:

Wild: Unknown.

Captivity: 12-16 years

REPRODUCTION:

- Breeds all months.
- Both males and females have similar plumage.
- Eggs are smooth like duck eggs, rather than rough like goose eggs.
- Only the females incubate the eggs.
- Incubation lasts 28-30 days.
- Nest sites vary to include holes in trees or cliffs or on the ground.
- Nests are made from reeds and grass and lined with down.

DIET:

Wild: Crops and young grasses.

Captivity: Grain mixture and chopped greens.

BEHAVIOR:

- Can be found in groups of varying sizes.
- Perches and roosts in trees, often using the same branch each night.
- Noisy and often fighting, will hiss if annoyed.
- Male does little courting. Female may incite males to fight and choose the victor as her mate.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Feed on land as well as water.
- Only species of Shelduck found north of the equator.
- Apart from the many duck-like characteristics, they also have external goose-like features.
- Highly aggressive.

STATUS:

Common.

REFERENCES:

Egyptian Goose- <http://www.oaklandzoo.org>

Waterfowl and Screamers. The Audubon Society Encyclopedia of Animal Life. (Portland House), 1987; 106.

theZOO
LOUISVILLE



Laura Lamb photographer

Order:	Anseriformes
Family:	Anatidae
Genus:	Alopochen
Species:	egyptiacus