



Ruddy duck

(*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

Introduced in Great Britain in 1949 for ornamental purposes. The birds escaped from captivity and reproduced for the first time in 1960. They arrived in France in 1974.

Descriptif

- A small, diving duck 35 to 45 cm long, with a wingspan of 53 to 62 cm
- The ducks have a large tail, short wings and a large bill
- Clear sexual dimorphism:
 - the average weight of females is 510 grams, of males 610 grams
 - breeding males are ruddy brown in colour with white cheeks and black top of head, a sky blue bill and white under the tail. Their eclipse plumage is greyish brown, but the head is identical
 - females and immature males are a drab brown with a brown bill and yellowish cheeks with a brown stripe

Ecology and reproduction

- Habitats include:
 - water bodies with dense riparian vegetation
 - fresh or brackish water, however in France, they are found exclusively in fresh waters
- The animals may be aggressive with congeners and other species during the breeding season, but are peaceable otherwise
- Their diet consists of aquatic plants, molluscs, crustaceans, worms and insects
- Reproduction occurs from June to the end of August:
 - during the period, the animals are highly dispersed with their nests hidden in the riparian vegetation
 - broods count 6 to 14 eggs that incubate for 25 days
 - the young take off on their own after 50 to 55 days
 - first reproduction at age of 2 years

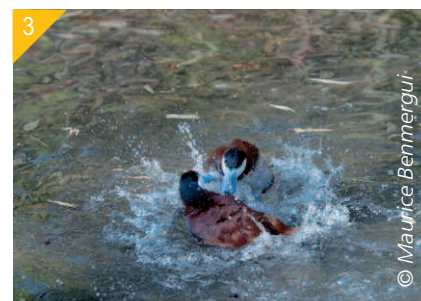
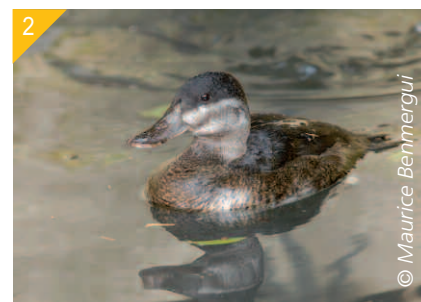
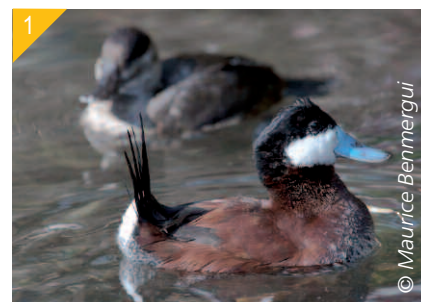
Documentation

- Sarat E. (coord.) 2012. Vertébrés exotiques envahissants du bassin de la Loire (hors poissons) : connaissances et expériences de gestion. Office national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage, Plan Loire Grandeur Nature, 128 pp.
- Madge S., Burn H. 1995. Guide des canards, des oies et des cygnes. Delachaux et Niestlé, Lausanne. 304 pp.
- Caizergues A., Fouque C. 2008. Zoom sur l'Érismature rousse, une espèce à éradiquer en France. Faune Sauvage, 280 : 64-66.

Author: Emmanuelle Sarat, IUCN French committee

Classification

Order	Anseriformes
Family	Anatidae
Genus	<i>Oxyura</i>
Species	<i>O. jamaicensis</i> (Gmelin, 1789)



1. Male ruddy duck with breeding plumage.
2. Female ruddy duck.
3. Aggressive males during the breeding season.

