



Egyptian goose

(*Alopochen aegyptiaca*)

Originated in Sub-Saharan Africa. Introduced into the U.K. at the end of the 1600s, then into Germany during the 1700s. It escaped from captivity and colonised the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain and France where the first reproduction was observed in 1985.

Description

- The bird looks like a goose, but with a special plumage:
 - light-coloured head, darker neck
 - chocolate-brown spot around the eye
 - greyish-brown back with a brown spot
 - green underwing, black tail
- Pink legs
- Adults stand 70 cm tall with a wing span of 140 cm
- The average weight ranges from 1.5 to 2.25 kg
- The average life span is between 15 and 20 years

Ecology and reproduction

- Habitats include urban water bodies, quarries and rivers
- Herbivorous diet (grass, leaves, seeds and grain). The birds can fill out their diet with insects, frogs and worms
- Reproduction can occur year round. In France, laying of eggs is observed from March to May
- The birds are gregarious during the pre-nuptial period, but aggressive during the breeding season
- Couples defend a territory of approximately one hectare
- Broods count 8 to 9 eggs that incubate for 28 to 30 days
- The young can fly after 70 to 75 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.
- Fouque C., Benmergui M., Bullifon F., Schricke V. 2012. L'Ouette d'Égypte : une espèce exotique en plein essor en France, Faune Sauvage N°296 : 15-25.
- Benmergui M., Bullifon F., Fouque C. 2011. L'Ouette d'Égypte *Alopochen aegyptiaca*. Synthèse bibliographique et perspectives de gestion pour la France. Office national de la chasse et de la faune sauvage, Station de la Dombes, Birieux. 42 pp.
- Cramp S., Simmons K.E. 1977. Handbook of the birds of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. The birds of the Western Palearctic (1) Ostrich to Duck. *Oxford University Press*, Oxford, UK. 913 pp.

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Classification

Order	Anseriformes
Family	Anatidae
Genus	<i>Alopochen</i>
Species	<i>A. aegyptiaca</i> (Linnaeus, 1766)

