

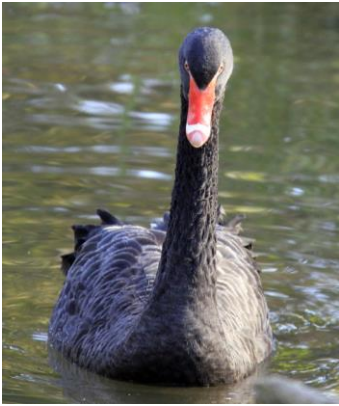
# Species Fact Sheets

**Order:** Anseriformes  
**Scientific Name:** Cygnus atratus

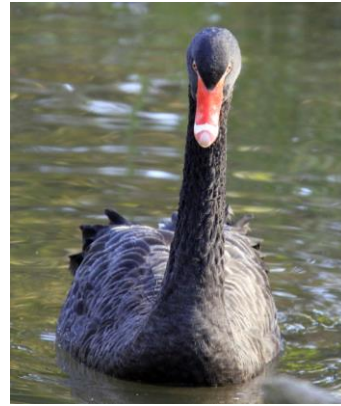
**Family:** Anatidae  
**Common Name:** Black Swan

**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 Swamps, freshwater marshes, lagoons of brackish water, shallow lakes and sheltered coastal sites.

**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 Below 40F Provide shelter and open water.

**Heat Tolerance:** To 30° F  To 50° F  To 70° F  To 90° F   
 To 110° F  Other Above 90F provide shade

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

**Captive Dietary Needs:**

Waterfowl pellet (Mazuri waterfowl maintenance/breeder) and plenty of fresh greens (Kale, endive).

**Life Expectancy in the Wild:** Males: ~30 years Females: ~30 years

**Life Expectancy in Captivity:** Males: ~30 years Females: ~30 years

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## BREEDING INFORMATION:

**Age at Sexual Maturity:** Males: 18-36 months Females: 18-36 months

**Courtship Displays:** Pair commonly calls in duet. Pair partners partially twine necks around one another and both birds plunge their necks repeatedly in water.

**Nest Site Description:** Untidy, bulky nests located in or close to the water in fringe vegetation or on a small island.

**Clutch Size, Egg Description:** 5-6 eggs

**Incubation Period:** 36-40 days

**Fledgling Period:** 3 to 5.5 months.

**Parental Care:** Both sexes take turns incubating. Brood merging common in colonial breeding, where a single pair can care for several cygnets in a crèche. Parents may carry cygnets on their back.

**Chick Development:** Chicks have light grey down. Juveniles are brown, mottled greyish with light-tipped feathers and a paler bill.

## CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

**Social Structure in the Wild:** Highly gregarious in flocks of tens of thousands. Least territorial of the swans, and pairs sometimes nest in dense colonies. Males can sometimes form breeding trios.

**Social Structure in Captivity:** Capable of being in mixed species exhibits. Size of pool can determine social groupings. Female-female pairs are an option for display purposes, and females will nest together.

**Minimum Group Size:** 1.1 or 0.2

**Maximum Group Size:** 1.1 or 0.2 suggested.

**Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:** Yes **Comments:** Work well with a variety of waterfowl species. Have been housed with same sexed black-necked swans.

**Optimal Habitat Size:** Exhibit ideally with a grass bank or island and large pool for swans to patrol in.

**Management Challenges:** Challenge to place offspring. Group should be reproductively managed. Bumblefoot can be an issue with birds that are dry docked for a significant period of time.

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

# Species Fact Sheets

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## REFERENCES:

Todd, Frank S. (1996). Natural History of the Waterfowl. Ibis Publishing Company, California.

del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A. & Sargatal, J. eds. (1992). Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol. 1. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

Photo: Judy Wolfe

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## COMPLETED BY:

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Date: 1/1/2015