

Radjah Shelduck

Description

The Radjah Shelduck is white with a chestnut band across its chest. Its wingtips, back, rump and tail are black while green and russet patches may be seen in a distinct pattern along its extended wings. It has a white eye with pink legs, feet and beak. The juvenile is much like the adult, except that the white portions are slightly brown.

Diet

The Radjah Shelduck is an omnivore and eats molluscs, insects, algae and sedges. It uses its beak to filter the water in search of bugs and seeds.

Breeding

The Radjah Shelduck nests close to both water and its food supply and so is rarely seen too far from water. It often chooses a hollow tree to hold its cream coloured eggs. The ducklings leave the nest soon after hatching, heading straight for the water to clean off. Both parents care for the ducklings.

Threats

This species has a large range and population. Habitat destruction and shooting have nevertheless contributed to a decline in its numbers.

At Perth Zoo

You can see Radjah Shelducks in the Australian Wetlands.

DID YOU KNOW?

Radjah Shelducks are monogamous and pairs become very territorial during the wet season when breeding grounds are established.



Fast Facts



Other Names: Raja Shelduck, White-headed Shelduck, Burdekin Duck

Scientific Name: *Tadorna radjah*

Conservation Status: Least Concern



Body Length: 40–60 cm

Weight: 1000 g

Incubation: 28 days

Number of eggs: 8–14

Habitat: Tropical coastal wetlands, rivers, mudflats, mangroves and paperback swamps

Distribution: Northern Australia

