

Common Name: Black-necked swan	Scientific Name: <i>Cygnus melanocoryphus</i>
Class: Aves Order: Anseriformes Family: Anatidae	Feeding Type: Herbivore Statistics: Length: 4 ft. Weight: Males (11 lbs.) Females (9 lbs.) Wingspan: 6 ft.

DESCRIPTION: This swan has an all white body with a black neck. It has a white stripe from its eye to its gray bill. A red lobe appears on top of the bill.

RANGE: Southern Brazil to Tierra del Fuego and the Falkland Islands.

HABITAT: Large marshes, lakes, and brackish estuaries.

ADAPTATIONS: The black-necked swan is one of the most aquatic swan species because its legs are situated so far back on its body. These birds become territorial during the breeding season and can be found in pairs. The rest of the year, the birds live in large flocks.

REPRODUCTION/GROWTH: Black-necked swans breed from July to November. The female lays three to seven eggs in a nest surrounded by dense vegetation close to the water. The pen, or female swan, incubates the eggs for about 36 days while the male, called a cob, protects the pen and the eggs. This duty is so important that the cob could go days without eating. Once the cygnets are born, they are carried around on the parents' backs for up to four weeks. Cygnets are born gray, but during the second year of life, the adult colors appear; however the red lobe on the bill may not become full size until the swan reaches three years of age. They reach sexual maturity at three to four years of age.

LONGEVITY: Wild- Up to 20 years of age
Captivity- Up to 32 years of age

PREY/PREDATOR: Prey to birds of prey and large mammals.

DIET: Wild- Variety of plant material
SZ- Wild birdseed mix

STATUS: Not threatened

SPECIAL NOTES: The black-necked swan is one of only two swan species native to South America. It is also the smallest of all the swan species. When fighting, these

birds keep their heads and necks close to the water. They have no honking vocalizations, but are able to make weak, whistling sounds.

The red knob is found in both males and females, but the males' knob is slightly larger. Males are also one third larger than females. This particular swan is in demand because of its great disposition. It is a very calm bird and can be paired with other waterfowl with few problems.



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