



INDIAN RUNNER DUCK

ANSERIFORMES
Family: Anatidae
Genus: Anas
Species: platyrhinos



Range: Originally found in former Dutch East Indies – Java, Bali & China among other places.

Habitat:

Niche: Terrestrial diurnal omnivore

Biomes:

Wild diet: Snails, slugs and insects

Zoo diet: duck pellets

Life Span: (Wild)

(Captivity) 8 – 10 years

Sexual dimorphism: Females are smaller

Location in SF Children's Zoo

APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

This breed consists of about 9 varieties that have been domesticated from the wild Mallard over the past century. Names are determined by coloration from Black, Chocolate, Cumberland Blue, Fawn, Fawn and White, American Fawn & White, Mallard, Trout and White are among the standard list of the UK. They look like bowling pins with legs. Eyes are set high on the head while the wide set legs are placed far back on the body creating the noted erect running posture. The small wings are held close to the body and overlap at the rear.

Weight: M 3.5 – 5 lbs
F 3 – 4.5 lbs

Length: M 26 – 32 inches
F 24 – 28 inches

STATUS & CONSERVATION

A “watch” status is in effect within the US with less than 5,000 (2,916 in 2000) breeding pairs. Their status in other countries will vary on a variety by variety basis.

They are sold as pets and for show.

Status of “wild” Malaysian population is undocumented at the time of this Fact Sheet.

COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR

COURTSHIP AND YOUNG

Though many eggs are laid the adults spend little time in brooding

Incubation: 28 days	Sexual Maturity:
# of eggs up to 200+ a year:	Fledging:

MISCELLANEOUS

Fist introduced to London Zoo on Oct. 31, 1835 by a sea captain. Since 1901 most had been crossbred with British wild and domestic ducks. Only after new importation's in 1909 were the true runner lineage preserved in Britain.

Some of the early Dutch explorers who saw these birds called them "Penguin Ducks".

Carvings have been found in Indo-China that the "Runner " has been domesticated for at least 2,000 years.

Sources:

www.runnerduck.net

www.burkesbackyard.com

www.albc-usa.org

www.indian-runner.co.uk

www.midnightbreeze.home.att.net

www.houstonzoo.org

11/2004