

Mute Swan Market in Bangladesh

Availability & Price: Mute swans are not native to Bangladesh, but a few private farms/importers can bring them in under permit. For example, a Dhaka-based farm (“Shahjalal Pets & Farming”) was formally authorized to import 20 mute swans (*Cygnus olor*) in 2022 ¹. There is no official price list; most transactions occur via online bird-trade networks or social media. Public data on swan prices is scarce. Anecdotal postings suggest that exotic swans sell for a few thousand taka each. For instance, one seller on social media advertised a mixed lot of black and mute swans at about **₳6,000** total (unofficial figure). By comparison, black swans (also sold as “royal geese”) reportedly fetch on the order of **₳30,000–70,000** per pair in Bangladesh markets. This implies mute swans might cost on the lower end of that range (a few thousand BDT apiece), though we could not find authoritative public quotes. (In general, studies note that “selling local or exotic birds is currently very common in Bangladesh” via online ads ², but exact prices vary by seller and age of bird.)

- *Example:* A recent news report cited a forest-department permit listing “Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) – Non-CITES – 20 (Twenty) heads” for import ¹. That confirms commercial availability, though the document did not specify a sale price.

Legal Status & Permits

Mute swans are not native wild birds in Bangladesh, so any private ownership depends on legal import. Under Bangladesh’s Wildlife Conservation law (2012) and Pet Bird Rules (2020), **all exotic birds – even non-endangered ones – require government permission to trade or import**. Mute swans are treated as “Non-CITES” cage birds, meaning they are not listed as endangered internationally, but national rules still apply. In practice this means:

- **Import Permit (NOC):** A No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Forest Department is required to import mute swans for commercial or private use. For example, an official NOC (2022) specifically names *Mute Swan (Cygnus olor) – Non-CITES – 20 heads* for a registered importer ¹.
- **Entry and Quarantine:** The birds must arrive via Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (Dhaka) and obtain a *Quarantine Certificate* from the Livestock Quarantine Station on arrival ³. A forest officer must inspect the shipment immediately.
- **Identification & Containment:** Imported swans must be kept caged and cannot be released into the wild. The NOC stipulates that each swan be leg-banded (ringed) within 7 days of import and reported to authorities ⁴.
- **Transfer Restrictions:** The permit is non-transferable, and any wildlife (i.e. natural/feral) capture is strictly prohibited ⁴. Violating these rules could mean penalties under Bangladesh’s wildlife protection laws.
- **CITES context:** Although mute swans themselves are not CITES-listed, Bangladesh is a signatory to CITES and has faced sanctions for lax controls on bird imports ⁵. This underscores that unlicensed trade in exotic birds (like swans, parrots, etc.) is taken very seriously ⁵.

In summary, **owning mute swans in Bangladesh is legal only under strict permit conditions**. You cannot buy wild-caught swans, only ones legally imported by licensed farms. All the above conditions (caging, no release, quarantine, leg rings) must be met according to the Forest Department's NOC ³.

Husbandry & Transport

Because mute swans are large waterfowl, their care requirements are more demanding than typical poultry:

- **Water Habitat:** Swans need a sizable pond or lake where they can swim and forage. In captivity they are often pinioned (wing-clipped) and depend on humans for food ⁶. Owners should provide at least a clean, well-maintained pond with aquatic plants or algae (swans are herbivorous).
- **Diet:** All captive swans *must* be fed – they cannot rely solely on wild forage ⁶. The recommended diet is a proper waterfowl/poultry feed (non-medicated), often blended with corn or grains to keep protein moderate ⁷. Caretakers emphatically advise **against** feeding swans common human foods like white bread: “We avoid bread – there is little to no nourishment in white bread for waterfowl,” and bread can cause indigestion or even fatal mold poisoning ⁸. Instead, provide a commercial duck/goose pellet or poultry mash, fresh greens, and grit/minerals.
- **Health & Handling:** New swans should arrive via air transport (Dhaka airport) and go through veterinary check/quarantine ³. They can be sensitive to heat, pollution, and diseases (e.g. avian flu has affected swans globally), so water quality and biosecurity are important. During transport, birds must be securely caged to prevent injury and stress – the NOC requires them to be caged until settled ³. Leg-banding also aids identification if a bird is lost or escapes.
- **Predator Control:** Young swans (cygnets) are especially vulnerable to dogs or other predators. Any breeding setup should have secure fencing or guard animals. Swans can be aggressive when breeding (especially the male cob), so care should be taken when handling adults during the nesting season.

In short, keeping mute swans requires significant space, water, and a proper diet. They are not simple “backyard ducks” – official guidance notes that “ALL CAPTIVE SWANS NEED TO BE FED” ⁶ and that they are best treated as specialized waterfowl pets. Anyone planning to buy a mute swan should have expertise in waterfowl husbandry and must strictly follow the legal import and biosecurity procedures outlined above ³ ⁶.

Sources: Official Bangladesh Forest Department documents (NOCs for exotic birds) ⁹ ³; Mongabay report on Bangladesh bird trade ⁵ ²; and expert swan-care resources ⁶ ⁸. Price estimates are drawn from reported social-media listings and are indicative, as no formal published price lists were found.

¹ ³ ⁴ ⁹ bforest.portal.gov.bd

https://bforest.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/bforest.portal.gov.bd/page/77fc9183_f6d4_4795_a8ee_5dcfb56ad5e8/2022-10-06-03-54-c13f8513422adfd5c663af19eb548d2b.pdf

² ⁵ CITES suspends Bangladesh as illegal wild bird trade continues

<https://news.mongabay.com/2024/08/cites-suspends-bangladesh-as-illegal-wild-bird-trade-continues/>

⁶ ⁷ ⁸ Swan Lovers

<https://swanlovers.net/category/feed-captive-swans/>