

HOST LIST OF AVIAN BROOD PARASITES - 1 - ANATIDAE

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Heteronetta

Heteronetta Salvadori 1865, Atti. Societa Italiana di Scienze Naturale e Museo Civico di Storia Naturale, 8, p. 374.

Black-headed Duck, *Heteronetta atricapilla* (Merrem) 1841, Allgemeine Encyclopadie der

Wissenschaften und Kunste in alphabetischer Folge von
genannten Schriftstellern bearbeitet und hrsg. von J. S.
Ersch und J. G. Gruber, sect. 1, 35, p. 26.

General life history information given by Weller
(1968, Lyon and Eadie 2013; see also Lowther 2010).
Host list from Weller (1968), Höhn (1975), Lyon and
Eadie 2013, Cabrera et al. 2017; see also Rees and
Hillgarth (1984). Livzey (1986) presents waterfowl
phylogeny showing Black-headed Duck to be sister-
group to stiff-tails.



Species known to have reared this brood parasite indicated by "%". In captivity, reported hosts have included Rosy-billed Pochard *Netta peposaca* (Powell 1979, Rees and Hillgarth 1984), Red Shoveler *Anas platalea* (Todd 1979 ¹), and Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* and Silver Teal *Anas versicolor* (Powell 1979 ²). Rees and Hillgarth 1984).

The Maguari Stork *Ciconia maguari* had been listed originally as a host based on supposed parasitic eggs which were later identified as being those of Rosy-billed Pochard *Netta peposaca* (see Weller 1968); subsequent records returns this species to this list of hosts (Cabrera et al. 2017).



ANHIMIDAE

Southern Screamer, *Chauna torquata*

ANATIDAE

Fulvous Tree-Duck, *Dendrocygna bicolor*

Black-necked Swan, *Cygnus melanocoryphus*

Coscoroba Swan, *Coscoroba coscoroba*

White-cheeked Pintail, *Anas bahamensis*

% Rosy-billed Pochard, *Netta peposaca*

PODICIPEDIDAE

Great Grebe, *Podiceps major*

ARAMINIDAE

Limpkin, *Aramus guarauna*

RALLIDAE

Spotted Rail, *Paradirallus maculatus*

Plumbeous Rail, *Paradirallus sanguinolentus*

% Red-fronted Coot, *Fulica rufifrons*

% Red-gartered Coot, *Fulica armillata*

White-winged Coot, *Fulica leucoptera*

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-necked Stilt, *Himantopus mexicanus*

LARIDAE

Brown-hooded Gull, *Chroicocephalus maculipennis*

CICONIIDAE

Maguari Stork, *Ciconia maguari*

ARDEIDAE

Black-crowned Night Heron, *Nycticorax nycticorax*

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

White-faced Ibis, *Plegadis chihi*

Bare-faced Ibis, *Phimosus infuscatus*

Roseate Spoonbill, *Ajaia ajaja*

ACCIPITRIDAE

Snail Kite, *Rostrhamus sociabilis*

Long-winged Harrier, *Circus buffoni*³

FALCONIDAE

Chimango Caracara, *Milvago chimango*

Acknowledgments. Illustration and map taken from Neotropical Birds Online; photo of bird at Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, 22 November 2009 © Cláudio Dias Timm; map provided by Robert S. Ridgely.

References:

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- Todd, F. S. 1979. Waterfowl. Ducks, geese and swans of the world. Seaworld Press, San Diego, CA.
- Weller, M. W. 1968. The breeding biology of the parasitic Black-headed Duck. Living Bird 7: 169-208.

Notes.

1. Todd (1979: 314): "Breeding success was achieved for the first time in 1977 at the Wildfowl Trust, and the Assistant Director, Mike Lubbock, has made a number of observations that have added considerably to our knowledge of the breeding biology of this interesting species. In one case, a pair of black-headed ducks was observed to force an incubating Argentine red shoveler from the nest, and within five minutes the female *Heteronetta* was seen to lay an egg of her own."
2. Based on published information, the identity of this teal host is not certain. Captive breeding as described by Powell (1979: 16) indicated 3 different host species: "Between the 9th and 18th of May [1979], six more Black-headed Duck eggs have been laid: two in the same nest [of Rosy-billed Pochard], two in a Moorhen nest and two in a Cinnamon Teal nest and , ... " ; but the host environment for these Black-headed Ducks at the Wildfowl Trust has been described slightly differently in terms of potential host species available.

Rees and Hillgarth (1984: 242-243) described captive conditions as: "In 1974 the Wildfowl Trust collected eggs of Black-headed Ducks in Argentina in order to establish a captive breeding population of this species at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, England. The five males and two females from these eggs were pinioned and placed in a pen (36 x 19 m) in which the terrain was designed to resemble their natural habitat (M. R. Lubbock, pers. comm.). The pen contained a pond (380 m² surface area) and four small islands. Rushes and sedges were planted at the water's edge so that the area was like a miniature marsh. **Other South American birds** [emphasis added] were put in the enclosure to provide suitable hosts for the Black-headed Ducks. These included Rosy-billed Pochards, Lake Ducks (*Oxyurua vittata*), Southern Versicolor Teal (*Anas versicolor fretensis*), Red Shovelers (*A. platalea*), and Black-necked Swans (*Cygnus melanocoryphus*). Wild Mallards (*A. platyrhynchos*), Gadwalls (*A. strepera*), and Moorhens (*Gallinula chloropus*) also bred in the pen. The first nine captive bred Black-headed Ducks were reared at Slimbridge in 1977."

Powell (1979: 15) describes these same conditions in the Wildfowl Trust's newsletter as: "At Slimbridge where the Black-headed Duck first bred in captivity in 1977, (an account appeared in 'Wildfowl News' No. 77) six pairs are at present kept in a pen with three pairs of Rosybill [= Rosy-billed Pochard, *Netta peposaca*], three pairs of Argentine Ruddy Duck [= most likely Lake Duck, *Oxyura vittata*; if only truly Argentinean species shared the pen; Ruddy Duck, *Oxyura jamaicensis* does not naturally occur in Argentina], one pair of Cinnamon Teal [= *Anas cyanoptera*; or possibly – or more likely given the species listing in Rees and Hillgarth 1984, Silver Teal, *Anas versicolor*] and one pair of Black-necked Swans [*Cygnus melanocoryphus*] -- all **natives of Argentina** [emphasis added] and all ground nesting species."

3. Nest may have been abandoned when parasitized.