

# Hawaiian Goose

*Branta sandvicensis*

Also known as the Ne-Ne, this is the most endangered goose species in the world. As the name suggests, they are found naturally on the islands of Hawaii.

The Hawaiian Goose used to be common on many of the Hawaiian Islands with an estimated population of around 25 000. Their populations were decimated until only around 30 remained in 1952. Thanks to captive breeding efforts, they were brought back from the brink of extinction and the global population now stands at close to 2 000.

These geese are monogamous, and a pair typically remains together until one mate dies. Very rarely "divorces" happen, typically following an unsuccessful breeding season. Unlike most other waterfowl, Hawaiian Geese mate on land.

The females alone choose the nesting site and prepare the nest, which is usually placed in hollows on the ground. These nests are down-lined and generally well concealed under bushes. Females usually reuse the same nest.



**Lifespan:** 25 Years

**Weight:** 1.7 – 2.6 kg

**Size:** 53 - 69 cm

**Breeding Season:** Almost year round

**Incubation Period:** 29 - 32 Days

**Number of Chicks:** 1 - 5

**Diet:** Leaves, seeds, grasses, fruits, buds and flowers

**Problems They Face:** Habitat destruction, drought, nest disturbance and introduced predators

**Conservation Status:** Vulnerable – CITES App I