

AFRICAN SWAMPHEN

Porphyrio porphyrio madagascariensis

Latham, 1801



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Aves

Order: Gruiformes

Family: Rallidae

12 subspecies recognized



NOT LISTED

VERY RARE



LEAST CONCERN

Identification: Total length of 50 cm for a weight of 687 g. Large red bill, red forehead shield. Blue plumage, lighter on face and neck, greenish back and upper wings.

Range: This subspecies occurs in Egypt and most of subsaharan Africa, also Madagascar. The species is found in southern Europe, South Asia, Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia and Samoa.

Habitat: Found in wetlands around rivers, marshes, flooded grasslands, lakes.

Behavior: Omnivorous species, mostly feeding on leaves and roots of aquatic plants. African subspecies lives in pairs, Asian subspecies occur in colonies.

Status in the wild: The species is relatively common in many parts of its range although local declines have been noted. This subspecies is intensively hunted.

In captivity: This species is fairly common in captivity around the world and Asian subspecies are usually commonest in zoos. This subspecies is currently kept in a single zoo in Europe and some collections in the Middle-east and Africa. Rarely bred.