

Report Sightings of Egyptian Geese

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The Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) is an invasive species of waterfowl which is native to central and southern Africa. They have spread to many states including Arkansas. So far, some have been detected in Northwest Arkansas and the Arkansas River Valley.

Egyptian geese have the potential to cause crop loss, infect domestic poultry with diseases, and foul public spaces. One study found Egyptian geese caused 66% mean yield loss in barley and wheat. Because they often live and breed near commercial poultry and wild waterfowl, Egyptian geese have potential to spread disease. And like many geese species, their feces foul green spaces such as golf-courses, parks, and lawns. While foraging, they can defecate every 3 to 4 minutes. During mating season, they can become aggressive and attack native waterfowl.



Egyptian goose family by Susan Young, CC
PDM 1.0



Egyptian goose by Caleb Putnam, CC
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Report sightings to Becky McPeake, Extension Wildlife Specialist (rmcpeake@uada.edu), who will notify authorities. Egyptian geese have beige chests and dark brown, dark orange, black, and white feathers on their backs. Around their eyes are distinctive dark brown patches. Their beaks are pink on top and black on the bottom. Additional details about their identification and life history can be found at <https://ebird.org/species/egygoo>.

This statewide effort at locating Egyptian geese is in partnership with Dr. Caleb Roberts, USGS, Arkansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, and Karen Rowe, Ornithologist, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.