

Purple Swampphen

**Scientific Name:**

Porphyrio porphyrio

Range:

Southeast Asia, New Zealand, Greater Sundas, Philippines, Australia, India and southern China

Habitat:

Dense reed beds in marsh and lake areas

Average Size:

Length: about 18 inches
Weight: about 1.9-2.3 pounds

Lifespan:

About 11 years

Diet:

Wild: Invertebrates, amphibians and plant matter

Zoo: Produce, ground meat, fish, and rainforest crumble mix

Reproduction:

Incubation: 23-29 days

Clutch size: 3-6 eggs

Appearance:

A medium sized wading bird with beautiful purple feathers, highlighted with greens and blues. The beak is red with an extended 'helmet' on the forehead. The legs are long and red with long toes.

Predators:

Humans, weasels, mongooses, birds of prey, larger wetland species, cats, dogs, foxes and others.

Population Status:

Stable

**About the Animal**

Sometimes called a Purple Gallinule, this red-footed wading bird is a common sight through most of Southeast Asia and eastern Australia.

Although capable of flying, the Purple Swampphen prefers to wade. Small flocks travel together as they wander through reed beds in search of food. When disturbed, flocks raise a terrible noise, sounding off in their hoarse, cracking voices.

Even at rest the Purple Swampphen has a habit of constantly flicking its tail, displaying the white feathers beneath.

Mating and Reproduction

Purple Swampphens have a variety of mating habits, from monogamous pairs to communal breeding/nests. In communal breeding/nests, two females share a nest and mate with several males. Non-breeding offspring of both sexes help raise the young.

Amazing Information

Groups of swampphens have a well defined dominance hierarchy. These groups of up to 9 birds include a dominant, breeding female, her males and several non-breeding offspring.



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