

Discover the Fauna of Our Campus

Ruddy shelduck -*Tadorna ferruginea*


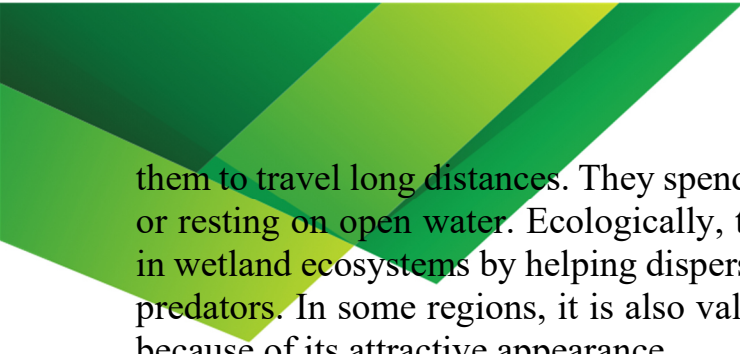
Alam: Animals
Phylum: Chordata
Class: Aves (Birds)
Order: Anseriformes
Family: Anatidae
Genus: *Tadorna*
Species: Ruddy shelduck

The ruddy shelduck is a medium-to-large water bird known for its bright orange-brown plumage and striking appearance. The head and neck are usually lighter in color, while the wing tips contain black feathers. Unlike many other ducks, this species is well adapted not only to wetlands but also to dry open landscapes and semi-desert regions. In Azerbaijan, it is commonly observed in the Kura-Araz



lowland, lakes, reservoirs, and wetland habitats. This bird can live both near water bodies and in dry areas far from water. Its habitats include freshwater and saline lakes, riverbanks, marshes, and open plains. For nesting, it often chooses ground burrows, abandoned animal dens, or rocky shelters. The ruddy shelduck has an omnivorous diet. It mainly feeds on aquatic plants, grasses, seeds, and grains. It also consumes insects, mollusks, and other small aquatic invertebrates to obtain protein. The breeding season usually begins in spring.

Pairs form strong long-term bonds and often remain together for several seasons. The female generally lays 6–12 eggs, which are incubated for about 28–30 days. Shortly after hatching, the chicks are able to enter the water and feed independently. Ruddy shelducks are often seen in pairs or small groups. They are vocal and alert birds, producing loud calls when disturbed. Their flight is strong and fast, allowing



them to travel long distances. They spend much of their time grazing near shorelines or resting on open water. Ecologically, the ruddy shelduck plays an important role in wetland ecosystems by helping disperse plant seeds and serving as prey for larger predators. In some regions, it is also valued as an ornamental and observation bird because of its attractive appearance.

