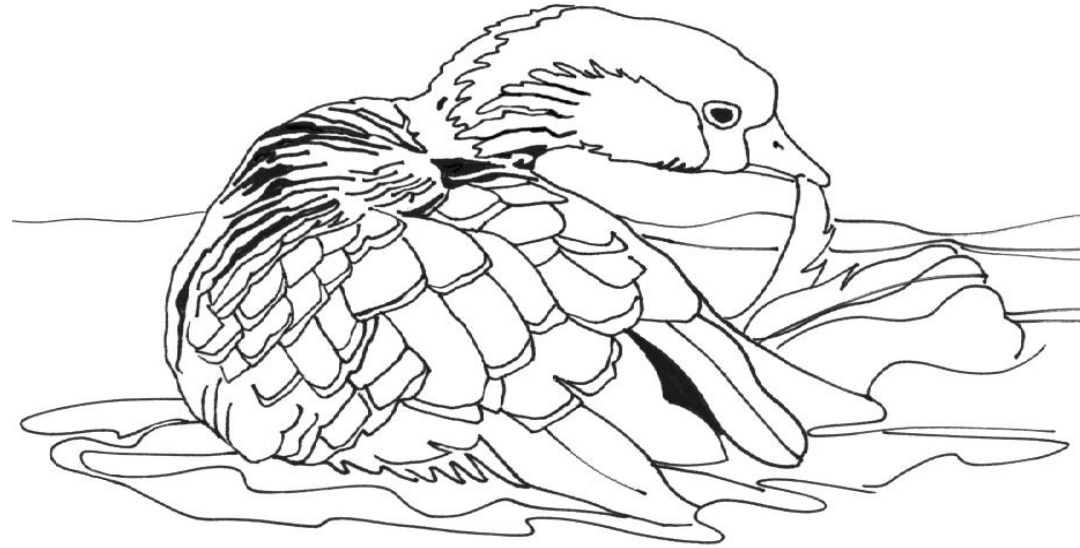





Nēnē O Molokaʻi
P.O. Box 580
Kaunakakai, Molokaʻi
Hawaii 96748

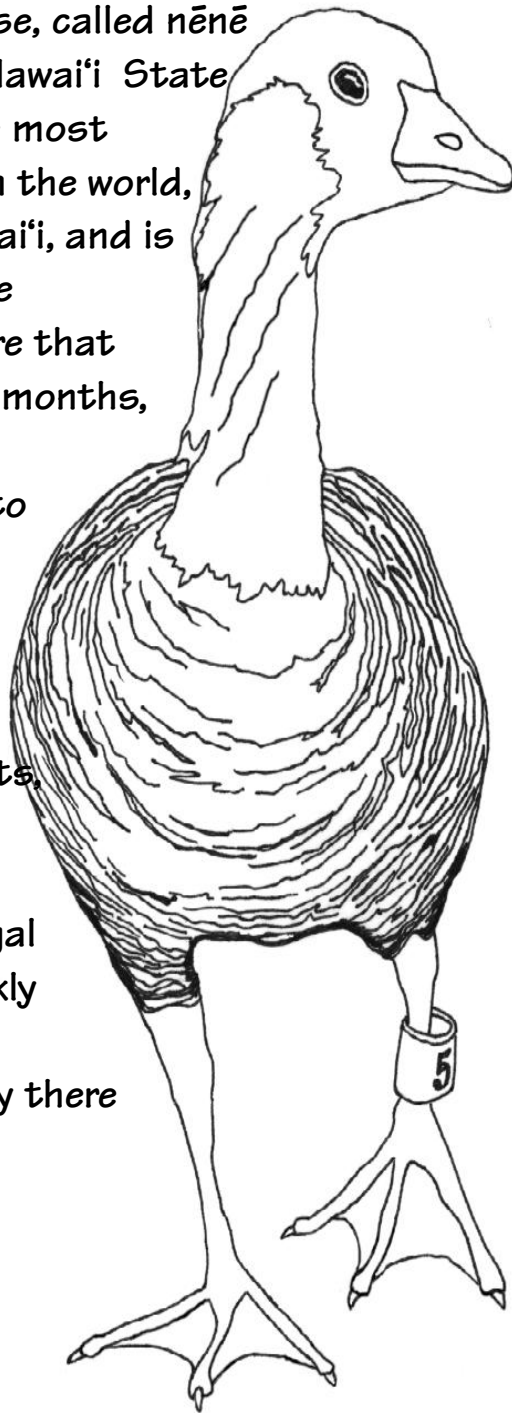
Nā Nēnē



Nēnē O Molokaʻi

Address Correction Requested

The Hawaiian Goose, called nēnē in Hawaiian, is the Hawai'i State Bird. The nēnē is the most endangered goose in the world, is only found in Hawai'i, and is the only goose in the Northern Hemisphere that nests during winter months, October – March. Several factors led to the rapid decline of the nēnē, including predation by alien species such as mongoose, dogs, cats, and rats. Hunting during the breeding season remained legal until 1907, and quickly diminished the wild population. Currently there are less than 1,000 nēnē in the wild.



Please! Don't feed the nēnē!

Nēnē seeking handouts from humans may enter into dangerous situations. Nēnē will approach a human in a moving vehicle... Road kills are a major cause of nēnē deaths in the wild!



The No. 1 rule of the nēnē is Don't Feed Them!

Special acknowledgement to Mr. Herbert Shipman, who in 1949 maintained the only captive flock of nēnē in the world and helped save the nēnē from extinction, Mr. Ah Fat Lee, who in 29 years raised 1,765 nēnē for release into the wild, and Mr. Paul Breese, who as the Director of the Honolulu Zoo and the Nēnē Advisory Committee, persuaded the 1957 Territorial Legislature to proclaim the nēnē the "Official Bird of Hawai'i."

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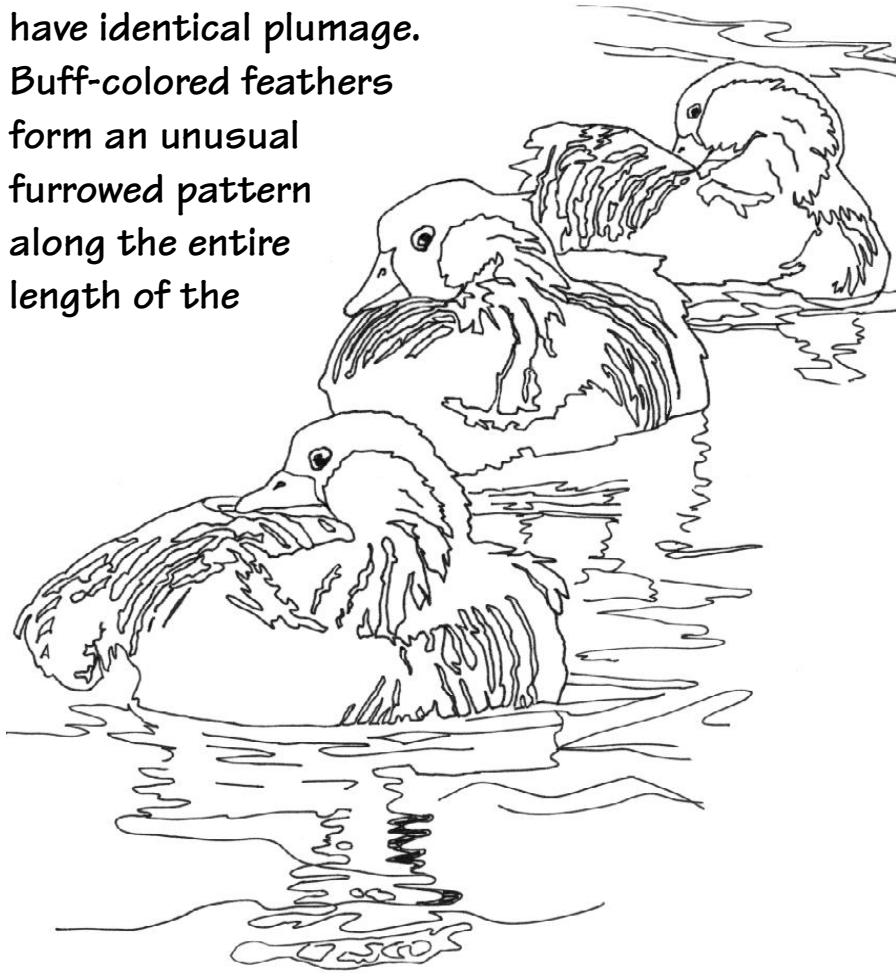
Nēnē O Moloka'i
P.O. Box 580
Kaunakakai, Hawai'i 96748

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The Hawaii Community Foundation
900 Fort Street Mall, Suite 1300
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The nēnē is a species of waterfowl, and uses water just like other ducks, geese and swans. The nēnē will bathe in the rain, search for food on the bottom of a pond or stream, or nap while drifting with the wind on the water.

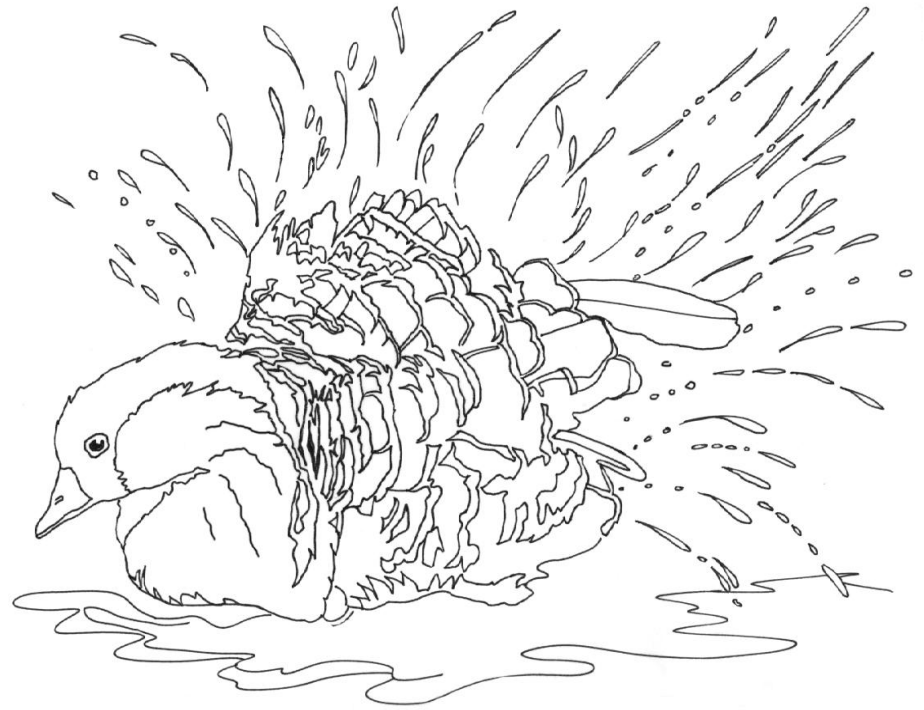
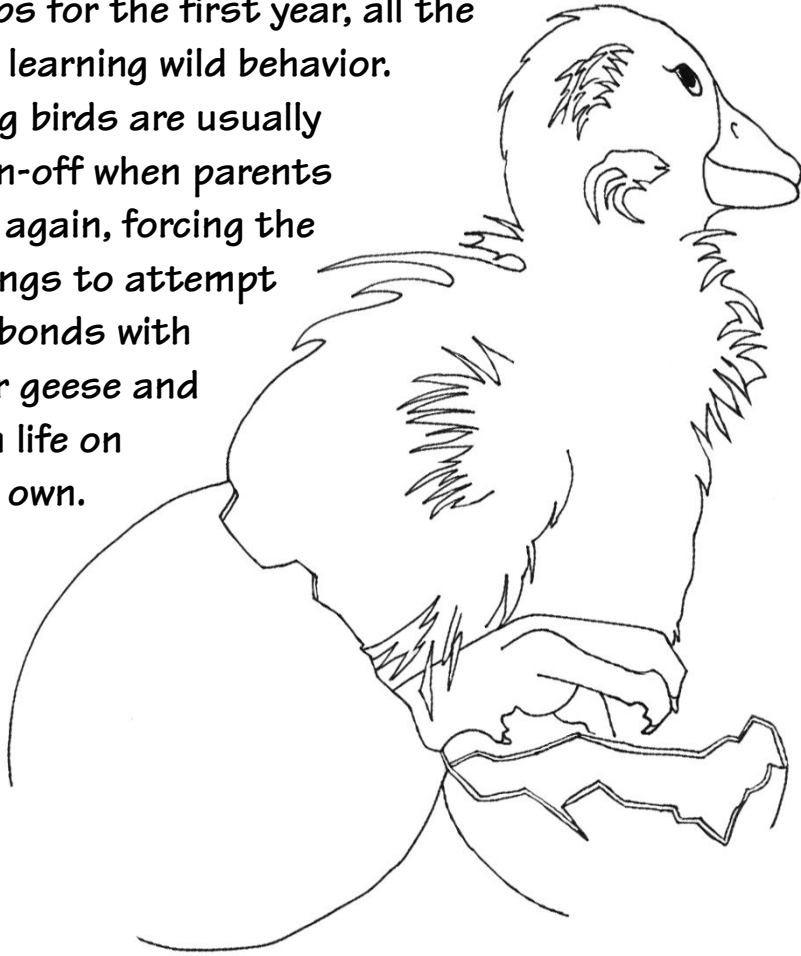
Males and females have identical plumage. Buff-colored feathers form an unusual furrowed pattern along the entire length of the



Nēnē lay the largest egg in relation to their body size of any goose in the world. An average of four eggs are laid in a clutch and hatch in 29 - 31 days, the longest incubation time of any goose species in the world.



Nēnē goslings hatch wet and with open eyes. Goslings quickly fluff-up and within 24 hours can stand, walk and feed, and will leave the nest forever. Nēnē are very social birds and parental care is prolonged. Although wild goslings fledge at 10 to 12 weeks of age and are fully capable of life on their own, juveniles may travel in family groups for the first year, all the while learning wild behavior. Young birds are usually driven-off when parents nest again, forcing the goslings to attempt pair-bonds with other geese and begin life on their own.



Wild nēnē live 35 years, on average, and can live much longer. Nēnē feed mostly in the early morning and late afternoon, and rest in the shade throughout the day. Small flocks of nēnē will consistently roost overnight in the same location, dispersing after dawn to a daytime feeding ground, returning at dusk. Flocks will sometimes form after the breeding season when the new goslings have fledged, beginning the mating process.

Nests are constructed on the ground, concealed under low shrubs, often using a previously successful nest scrape. The goose lines it with grass and soft down feathers plucked from her breast. Eggs are normally laid every other day until a complete clutch is formed. Incubation usually starts when the last egg is laid. Males guard the nest by perching on high ground or nearby boulders.

Nēnē have reduced webbing of the feet...

Can this be an adaptation for perching behavior during the breeding season?



Visual sex determination can be difficult...The forehead of a gander is more vertical, while that of a goose is more sloped.

Males are typically larger than females.



The male nēnē is called a gander, the female is called a goose, and the baby nēnē is called a gosling. Parents are very protective of their young and will stomp feet, flap wings, hiss and bite to frighten an intruder.

Adult nēnē molt at the same time that their young are flightless, making entire families susceptible to predation. Wild nēnē are very secretive during this period, and are rarely seen in open spaces.



Very strong pair-bonds are formed but nēnē may not mate for life... If one mate is lost the survivor will choose another. Some nēnē have been known to “divorce” and choose new mates. Other pair-bonds even form trios... one male with two females!

Despite their current range, it is speculated that nēnē once nested in lowland habitats and migrated to seasonal food sources at various elevations. Nēnē are omnivores, eating predominately grass and seeds, although they also eat insects or small fish.