

MN (Minor) *Oxyura jamaicensis*

<b>Date assessed</b>	2021-10-19
<b>Year published</b>	2023
<b>Eicat category</b>	MN (Minor)
<b>Justification for EICAT assessment</b>	Hybrids of the Ruddy Duck and the globally threatened White-headed Duck ( <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i> ) are fertile and produce viable offspring in backcrosses with both parental species in the wild in Spain. They are recognized as the most significant threat to the survival of the White-headed Duck. However, there is no extensive introgression of ruddy duck genes into the Spanish White-headed Duck population and no evidence that this has caused a decline of White-headed Ducks (Urdiales and Pereira 1996, Smith et al. 2005, Hughes et al. 2006, Muñoz-Fuentes et al. 2007, Cosgrove et al. 2008, Sanchez et al. 2010). The gut contents of 25 Ruddy Ducks in Spain contained invertebrates, like Chironomidae, Amphipoda, Cladocera and Isopoda and at least ten families of aquatic plants were identified. There is no evidence that this has caused a decline of these species (Sanchez et al. 2010).
<b>Confidence rating</b>	Medium
<b>Mechanism(s) of maximum impact</b>	Hybridisation; Predation
<b>Countries of most severe impact</b>	Spain
<b>Description of impact</b>	The Ruddy Duck competes and hybridizes with the White-headed Duck in Spain. It also feeds on native invertebrate and plant species.
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<b>Reviewers</b>	EICAT authority
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