

## Twycross Zoo Animal Information Sheet

Common Name: Greater Magellan Goose / Upland goose

Scientific Name: *Chloephaga picta*



### Physical Appearance.

The male of the species has a white head and breast with the rest of the body being white with distinctive black lines. Females have a brown to orange head and neck and the body is brown with black lines. The beak and legs of both sexes are dark grey. The legs of the upland goose are longer than other geese species. The species measures 60 - 72.5 cm in length and weighs 2.7 - 3.2 kg.

### Habitat and Distribution.

There are two sub species of upland goose. One population is found in Central Chile and Argentina and the other is in the Falkland islands. The American population migrates from higher to lower altitudes and the Falkland population is sedentary. They are found in grassland and arable fields and are not associated with water.



### Distribution of the Upland Goose

The association of this goose with agricultural land means they are often in conflict with farmers when they destroy arable and grass crops.

### Diet.

The geese are grazers, eating leaves, stems, seed heads and sedges.

### Sociality and Breeding.

Breeding in the American population starts in September with breeding in the Falklands starting slightly later. The geese nest in pairs or loose groups on the ground. The female lays between 5 - 8 eggs which she incubates for 30 days, in a nest constructed on the earth. The young are ready to fledge after 9 - 10 weeks.