

Investigation on reproductive behavior in captive black swan ⁽¹⁾

Chih-Chang Hsiao ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ Sheng-Der Wang ⁽²⁾ and Ching-Yi Lien ⁽²⁾

Received: Feb. 14, 2020; Accepted: Mar. 30, 2020

Abstract

The aim of the study was to investigate the reproductive behavior in captive black swan. The investigation included two parts: I. An investigation of the reproductive performances for 16 breeders black swan (8 cobs and 8 pens) in outdoor feeding. II. Eighteen breeders black swan (9 cobs and 9 pens) were used to investigate the reproductive performances under in-house rearing. After mating, the time spent for each behavior was recorded. The results showed that the black swans reared outdoor owned 1 to 4 clutches. Each pen owned 1 to 7 laying eggs per clutch (average number of eggs was 4.17), an incubation period was about 35 to 38 days, the average fertilization rate and the hatching rate of fertilized egg were 42.23% and 26.11%, respectively. Reproductive performances of both in-house and outdoor rearing black swan were similar, except for the number of laying cycle (in-house < outdoor). After mating, the percentage of time for each behavior spent by in-house rearing cobs and pens were: swimming and bathing in the water (31.83%, 41.25%); feeding and drinking (2.04%, both cobs and pens); standing and alerting (2.00%, 2.04%); prone resting (30.54%, 30.25%); land preening (33.38%, 24.71%). The results showed that the black swan reared in indoor house had higher fertilization rate, hatching rate of fertilized eggs which was beneficial to the management of the subsequent breeding period. The behavior of black swan can be realized by observation, which could be used as the reference for future improvement in artificial feeding technology.

Key words: Black swan, Reproduction, Behavior, In-house rearing, Outdoor feeding.

(1) Contribution No. 2634 from Livestock Research Institute, Council of Agriculture, Executive Yuan.

(2) Changhua Animal Propagation Station, COA-LRI, Changhua 52149, Taiwan, R. O. C.

(3) Corresponding author, E-mail: ccchang@mail.tlri.gov.tw.