



**Behavior and Breeding phenology of the Ruddy Shelduck *tadorna ferruginea*
Ziban in dry grasslands (Algerian steppe).**

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Abstract

During this study conducted in the wetlands of the Ziban region (South-eastern of Algeria) from August 2008 to July 2011, the Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* was presented the resident breeder status. The maximum recorded was 285 individuals observed during the second half of October while the lowest numbers were recorded during the months of June, July and August of each year. The analysis of the diurnal time budget shows that the feeding is the main activity. She has almost 50% of the total day budget. It is followed by the activities of movement (swimming: 9.28%, walking: 2.62% and the flight: 1.75%), sleeping (16.91%), preening (7.85%), courtship (4.38%), antagonism (4.03%) and resting (3.88%). This shows that the wetlands of the valley act as delivery day. These sabkhas and chotts are also breeding grounds for this species. Whereas, between 101 and 148 nests have been estimated through all wetlands of the valley.

Keys words: Ruddy Shelduck, *Todorna ferruginea*, Algeria, statut, Sahara, breeding, time budget.