



# Common Name Masked Lapwing

**Scientific Name:** *Vanellus miles*

FAMILY: Charadriidae

ORDER: Charadriiformes

AZA MANAGEMENT: Provisional

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

- EUROPE New Guinea
- ASIA
- NORTH AMERICA
- NEOTROPICAL
- AFRICA
- AUSTRALIA
- OTHER

## HABITAT

- FOREST Well adapted to urban interface habitat
- DESERT
- GRASSLAND
- COASTAL
- RIVERINE
- MONTANE
- OTHER

## CIRCADIAN CYCLE

- DIURNAL
- CREPUSCULAR
- NOCTURNAL
- OTHER

## TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE



From ° 30F to °110 F

50F with shelter and to 30F with radiant heat

## DIET

- FRUGIVORE
- NECTIVORE
- CARNIVORE
- OMNIVORE
- PISCIVORE
- FOLIVORE
- INSECTIVORE
- OTHER

Captive dietary needs: Primarily insect eaters in the wild. They are opportunistic foragers as well. Captive diets vary at each zoo.

Gamebird Mix includes:

Finely chopped fruit: apple, grape, banana, melon, sweet potato.

Mazuri Exotic Gamebird pellets

Mazuri Flamingo Maintenance pellets

Chopped romaine lettuce

Chopped hard-boiled egg

Also added to the diet is Nebraska Bird of Prey meat, and mealworms, superworms, waxworms, maggots.

## LIFE EXPECTANCY

Median Life Expectancy

Maximum  
Longevity

Within AZA 15-18 years

In the Wild 12 years



Within AZA 17-19 years

In the Wild 12 years



# BREEDING INFORMATION



## AGE AT SEXUAL MATURITY



Males 1-2 years



Females 2-3 years

Incubation period: 28-30 days starts with penultimate egg

Fledgling Period: 6-7 weeks



## CLUTCH SIZE, & EGG DESCRIPTION



3-4 eggs, which are yellowish-olive to light brownish-olive in color and pear-shaped.



## COURTSHIP DISPLAYS

Birds pair off and have displays of head bobbing and vocalizations. Pairs are very territorial of their nesting site and typically will reuse the same sites every breeding season.



## NEST SITE DESCRIPTION

Usually nests in short grass, often near water; the nest is a depression in the ground, unlined or lined with plant material, pebbles, and debris.



## CHICK DEVELOPMENT

Chick has upperparts pale brown speckled buff and mottled black, white hind neck collar, underparts mostly white; young can swim from early age



## PARENTAL CARE

Both parents incubate and care for the chicks.

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# CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION



## SOCIAL STRUCTURE



## MIXED SPECIES EXHIBITS

Compatible in mixed species exhibits?

YES

NO

Comments: Can be aggressive towards other shorebirds. Can be a great opportunity to create species diversity.

**In the wild:** During the non-breeding season, they form small flocks. During the breeding season they pair off to nest.

be a great opportunity to create species diversity in lorikeet interactive aviaries.

**In Captivity:** Either single pairs or single sex groups. Mixed-sex groups of juveniles can be kept together for extended periods. Parents generally will tolerate young until the subsequent clutch is close to hatch at which time parents may become aggressive. In the absence of subsequent clutches young may be tolerated for several years.

**Minimum Group Size:** 2

**Maximum Group Size:** Depends on exhibit space.

## OPTIMAL HABITAT SIZE

The ideal lapwing exhibit will have plenty of open, sandy areas combined with short grass areas. In addition, the lapwing exhibit should have an area of well-drained turf and a gradually deepening pool with running water (Vince, 1996). A few shrubs will provide shade and a sense of security (Holland, 2007).



## MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Pairs can be territorial during nesting. Angel wing and leg problems during chick rearing are not uncommon and may need to be managed. Bumble foot develops quickly when housed on concrete.

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

N/A

## REFERENCES

Shorebirds Animal Care Manual October 2013

Piersma, T. and Wiersma, P. (1996). Family Charadriidae (Plovers). Pp. 384-442 in: del Hoyo, J., Elliot, A. & Sargatal, J. eds. (1996). Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol. 3. Hoatzin to Auks. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.



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