

Foster-rearing Galliformes

Starring *Crax alberti*

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speaker notes in italics

*Sofia Vergara, 2009 hatch, arrived to SAAF in 2017.
Current male arrived in 2019
Produced a couple offspring in 2012 and one in 2020. The
latter passed at 7 months of age due to a heart condition
while under anesthesia for pre-ships.*



Signature SSP

- 43.32.1
- 17 facilities
- Male skewed
- Hand-reared males
- 13 females recommended to breed plus 9 additional at Dallas World Aquarium

*Per 2022 Breeding & Transfer Plan
6 of 13 females have previously bred.
Dallas World Aquarium using MateRx.*



“Nest a large structure of sticks and dead leaves, concealed within dense tangle of lianas and vines, at heights between understory and sub-canopy; two recently discovered nests were 1.9 and 4 m above ground. One was 80 cm in diameter and 20 cm high.”

Hens can begin laying at 2-3 years of age, but not sit until 8-9.





White Oak Conservation Center curassow nest design - also nothing like the wild style

DO NOT HAND-REAR

- Institutions capable of foster-rearing chicks are encouraged to do so if parent-raising is not an option.
- Cross-species fostering- domestic chicken hens Broody chicken hens are capable of incubating curassow eggs and rearing curassow chicks.
- Other galliformes
- Same-species fostering

Foster-rearing is the preferred alternative to hand-rearing and helps to minimize imprinting on human keepers.

Current known maximum life expectancy low 30s for curassows.

Foster parents can also be other Galliformes.

Foster-parents can also be other Galliformes.



After failure of Sofia's eggs early in incubation (improper storage most likely culprit) while awaiting her to begin sitting, received 2 hatching eggs from White Oak Conservation Center from genetically important pair. New hen there and did not sit.



Though this hen had previous offspring, has never raised her own. She has incubated at Saint Augustine Alligator Farm with previous male, but eggs were infertile. White Oak's eggs hatched the day after transfer









Chicks are sexually dimorphic at hatch via beak/cere but difference is subtle and best determined by pros. Both foster chicks determined to be male. All the more reason not to hand-rear Much loved by staff and guests.

*Transferred back to
White Oak and joined a
mixed curassow, juvenile
flock.*



Additional holders wanted!

- Singles
- Pairs
- Non-breeding

