Species Fact Sheets

Order:	Accipitriformes	**Family:**	**Accipitridae**
Scientific Name:	*Gyps africanus*	**Common Name:**	White-backed Vulture

AZA Management: ☐ Green ☐ Yellow ☒ Red ☐ None

Photo (Adult):

Photo (Chick):

NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range:	Europe	☐	Asia	☐	North America	☐	Neotropical	☐
	Africa	☒	Australia	☐	Other	Click here to enter text.		
Habitat:	Forest	☐	Desert	☐	Grassland	☒	Coastal	☐
	Riverine	☒	Montane	☐	Other	Woodland, Steppes		
Circadian Cycle:	Diurnal	☒	Crepuscular	☐	Nocturnal	☐	Other	Click here to enter text.
Cold Tolerance:	To 70° F	☐	To 60° F	☐	To 50° F	☐	To 40° F	☐
	To 30° F	☐	To 20° F	☒	Other	Low 20's only if there isn't precipitation.		
Heat Tolerance:	To 30° F	☐	To 50° F	☐	To 70° F	☐	To 90° F	☐
	To 110° F	☒	Other	In extreme heat, misters, pools or showers might be necessary				
Diet:	Frugivore	☐	Carnivore	☐	Piscivore	☐	Insectivore	☐
	Nectivore	☐	Omnivore	☐	Folivore	☐	Other (Add Below)	☒

Captive Dietary Needs:

Scavenger. Carrion eater and some bone fragments.

Life Expectancy in the Wild:	Males:	20 years	Females:	20 years
Life Expectancy in Captivity:	Males:	Still being determined. Possibly into their 40's	Females:	Still being determined. Possibly into their 40's

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity:	Males: 4 to 6 years Females: 4 to 6 years
Courtship Displays:	None recorded.
Nest Site Description:	Approximately 3' diameter. Will reuse nest. Have found at one institution that they prefer soft fir branches.
Clutch Size, Egg Description:	1 egg, rarely 2. White with some reddish/brown spots
Incubation Period:	56 – 58 days
Fledgling Period:	120 – 130 days
Parental Care:	Both parents share parental duties. Initially, the chick is brooded almost constantly. During bad weather it is not unusual for the adults to not feed the chick, to prevent chick being exposed to cold/wet conditions.
Chick Development:	Hatch weight around 120 g, between 230 – 270 g by 1 week.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild:	Semi-colonial. Will have 2 to 11 nesting pairs in a localized area. Larger numbers will congregate at carcasses; the same for watering holes.
Social Structure in Captivity:	4 breeding pairs total housed at 3 different institutions. Attempting 2 pairs housed together at one institution. Where birds are breeding, ask that they keep the offspring with adults for one additional breeding season.
Minimum Group Size:	1 pair
Maximum Group Size:	2 pair plus 1 or 2 offspring
Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:	Yes
Comments:	Have been housed with Saddle-billed Stork, Egyptian Vulture, Hooded Vulture and Palm-nut Vulture, with successful hatches. No available information on if species has been housed with mammals.
Optimal Habitat Size:	If birds are in and enclosed exhibit, provide enough space for flight, elevated nest structure and multi-tiered perching. If birds are pinioned/flight restricted, and housed with other species, a large yard of about 1 acre or more is preferred; but no less than ½ an acre. This gives the birds room to pick a preferred nesting site(s) away from the main activity space of the exhibit.
Management Challenges:	Prefer to keep birds in enclosed exhibits so they can be kept full winged. Extremely low population size.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Chick age progression photos:

REFERENCES:

Dallas Zoo internal material

http://www.hbw.com/species/white-backed-vulture-gyps-africanus

http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/white-backed-vulture-gyps-africanus

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COMPLETED BY:

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Date: 3/16/2018