

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Gruiformes
Scientific Name: *Grus antigone*

Family: Gruidae
Common Name: Sarus Crane

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other Found in northern India, southeast Asia, and northern Australia

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other Natural or agricultural wetlands

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 Cold hardy; access to shelter/supplemental heat below 32F, locked in holding below 15F. Some birds have been managed at temps below these parameters down to -4F

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Heat Tolerance:	To 30° F <input type="checkbox"/>	To 50° F <input type="checkbox"/>	To 70° F <input type="checkbox"/>	To 90° F <input type="checkbox"/>
	To 110° F <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Heat tolerant; birds should have access to shade, plenty of fresh water or sprinkler above 100F	
Diet:	Frugivore <input type="checkbox"/>	Carnivore <input type="checkbox"/>	Piscivore <input type="checkbox"/>	Insectivore <input type="checkbox"/>
	Nectivore <input type="checkbox"/>	Omnivore <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Folivore <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Add Below) <input type="checkbox"/>

Captive Dietary Needs:
 Varies by institution but typically includes a dry food pellet such as commercial dog food or crane pellet, leafy greens, produce, rodents (mice/pinkies) or fish (smelt/capelin), and insects

Life Expectancy in the Wild:	Males: 15-20	Females: 15-20
Life Expectancy in Captivity:	Males: 30-40	Females: 30-40

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity:	Males: 2-3 years	Females: 2-3 years
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Courtship Displays: Sarus cranes are likely to perform courtship dances, in order to attract attention & impress a mate.

Nest Site Description: Build enormous nests in wetlands or local areas of dry grasses. They usually build an “island” with reeds & grasses – roughly 2 meters high above water.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 2-3 eggs, though some will only have one; plain white eggs with a few speckles of green or gray

Incubation Period: 28 to 31 days	Fledgling Period: 3 months
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Parental Care: Both parents contribute to incubating eggs and raising offspring. They feed & care for chicks until they are well past juvenile stage and then push them away to find a mate before the next breeding season.

Chick Development: Chicks remain on nest for 24-48 hours after hatching and walking well by two days old. Chicks: Yellowish with patches of cinnamon-brown on wings & back; Juveniles: Head feathers are a cinnamon-brown, along with the rest of body (have indistinct grey ear patch) Reach independence at about 3 months.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Monogamous pairs that form long-term pair bonds. Found in pairs, small groups, or large groups depending on region and season.

Social Structure in Captivity: Monogamous pairs forming long term pair bonds.

Minimum Group Size: One pair	Maximum Group Size: One pair with offspring <1 year
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Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes	Comments: Have been housed with Indian Muntjac, Reeve’s Muntjac and Bactrian Camel
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Optimal Habitat Size: Do well in larger spaces. Outdoor enclosures range from 500 sq. ft. to a few acres. An exhibit with a pond or other water feature is ideal. In cold climates, a holding space for harsh weather should be provided that is 100 sq. ft. or larger.

Management Challenges: There has been limited success breeding Sarus in captivity, with only a handful of birds produced in several years. Low availability of adult birds for pairing.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Click here to enter text.

REFERENCES:

Ellis, David H, Gee, George F, & Mirande, Claire M editors of Cranes: Their Biology, Husbandry, and Conservation

Animal Diversity Web, University of Michigan, <https://animaldiversity.org/>

<https://www.savingcranes.org/species-field-guide/sarus-crane/>

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COMPLETED BY:

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