

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Columbiformes
Scientific Name: Columba mayeri

Family: Columbidae
Common Name: Mauritius Pink Pigeon

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other Island of Mauritius

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

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 [Click here to enter text.](#)

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F To 50° F To 70° F To 90° F
 To 110° F Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

Diet: Frugivore Carnivore Piscivore Insectivore
 Nectivore Omnivore Folivore Other (Add Below)

Captive Dietary Needs:

In the wild they feed on the ground and in trees. They feed mainly on green plants, fruits and various seeds. In captivity they readily eat a commercial pellet, such as Mazuri parrot pellet, that is soaked to increase palatability, along with a seed mix. A variety of fruits (figs, berries, apple, banana, grapes, papaya, melon and cooked sweet potato) can be added to their diet which they readily consume. Mixed softer vegetables like legumes (peas, beans etc.) steamed carrots and others can be fed but not necessary if the birds are consuming the more nutritious pellet. They enjoy eating the foliage in their enclosures especially leathery, shiny leaves and may decimate plantings rather quickly unless the enclosure is well planted.

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: [Click here to enter text.](#) Females: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: 19 years Females: 16 years

Species Fact Sheets

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: One year Females: One year

Courtship Displays: Typical, bowing, cooing and billing displays together with the males flight display. If the enclosure is not large enough this flight display may not be observed but generally it involves alternate emphatic wing beats and gliding. Males will fly off a perch and repeatedly pursue the female usually returning to the same perch.
Pink Pigeons can be extremely aggressive towards each other. Caution should be used when introducing new pairs. If possible, housing them side by side before introductions can help determine if aggression will be an issue. Even bonded pairs can become aggressive toward each other after raising chicks. During courtship the male will chase/drive the female, and this is a normal behavior. However, constant monitoring needs to be done as this driving behavior can turn to wing slapping and aggressive chasing very quickly. Once this occurs the pair needs to be separated immediately.

Nest Site Description: Nests can be platforms, open fronted nestboxes, or woven baskets

Clutch Size, Egg Description: Birds lay 1 to 2 eggs (rarely a 3rd egg has been laid), eggs are white and laid at 48 hour intervals. Parents will lay again as quickly as 10 days if nests fail or eggs are removed.

Incubation Period: 14 days

Fledgling Period: 21 days

Parental Care: Both parents incubate, switching on and off or sometimes sitting together, both parents feed the chicks.

Chick Development: At 2 weeks of age feathers are erupting, at 3 weeks of age chicks are ready to fledge, at 8 weeks of age, young may need to be removed from the enclosure due to parental aggression.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Pink Pigeons appear to be less aggressive in the wild than in captivity. There may be some communal roosting at night and then wide dispersal during the day to forage.

Social Structure in Captivity: One pair is usually the only option, with the additions of chicks for a short period.

Minimum Group Size: One bird can be housed adequately alone.

Maximum Group Size: 1.1.2

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes **Comments:** Pink Pigeons tolerate almost all passerines and most other pigeon species. Occasionally a

Species Fact Sheets

particularly aggressive bird may have issues in a mixed aviary but not generally.

Optimal Habitat Size: Pink Pigeons are large and somewhat awkward, suggest at least a 9' X 8' X 12' high enclosure, though single calm birds have been kept in smaller units

Management Challenges: Managing aggression can be challenging, but once acclimated Pink Pigeons are hardy birds with few health issues. The most common cause of death is trauma, usually from their mates. They are tolerant of cold temperatures but should be provided a heat source if the weather is cold, rainy and windy. They can be flighty and as a result of this behavior, they may scalp themselves on the roof of an aviary or wire enclosure. If they are being housed in quarantine or the hospital, padding the top of the enclosure can reduce the risk of scalping injuries.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Click here to enter text.

REFERENCES:

Baptista, L.F., Trail, P.W., and Horblitt, H.M. (1997). Family : Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves). Pp 60-243 in : del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., & Sargatal, J. eds. (1997) Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol4. Sandgrouse to Cuckoos. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona

Durrell, G. (1979) Golden Bats and Pink Pigeons. William Collins and Sons & Co Ltd, Glasgow

Jones, C.G., Jeggo, D.F., and Hartley, J. (1983) The Maintenance and Captive Breeding of the Pink Pigeon *Nesoenas mayeri* Dodo, J. Jersey Wildl. Preserv. Trust 14: 26-30

Click here to enter text.

COMPLETED BY:

Name: Chelle Plasse-Disney's Animal Kingdom

Date: 2/22/2014