

# Species Fact Sheets

**Order:** Ciconiiformes  
**Scientific Name:** *Lophotibis cristata*

**Family:** Threskiornithidae  
**Common Name:** Madagascar Crested Ibis

**AZA Management:**  Green  Yellow  Red  None

**Photo (Male):**



**Photo (Female):**



## NATURAL HISTORY:

**Geographic Range:** Europe  Asia  North America  Neotropical   
 Africa  Australia  Other Madagascar

**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:**

Bird of prey meat, capelin/smelt, peach fuzzy mice, live insects, softbill

**Life Expectancy in the Wild:** Males: 16 Females: 16

**Life Expectancy in Captivity:** Males: 20 Females: 20

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## BREEDING INFORMATION:

**Age at Sexual Maturity:** Males: 2-3 yrs Females: 2-3 yrs

**Courtship Displays:** Gathering twigs for nest building, slapping beaks, calling and raising crest feathers.

**Nest Site Description:** A large platform nest made up of branches and twigs is built in the fork of a tree.

**Clutch Size, Egg Description:** 2-3 eggs, white.

**Incubation Period:** Approx 25 days

**Fledgling Period:** Approx 30 days

**Parental Care:** Both parents take turns guarding the nest and feeding the chicks.

**Chick Development:** Altricial

## CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

**Social Structure in the Wild:** Typically nest in colonies together with other water birds. Feed on the forest floor in pairs.

**Social Structure in Captivity:** Typically nest in colonies together with other water birds. Feed on the ground in pairs.

**Minimum Group Size:** 2

**Maximum Group Size:** Dependent on what is appropriate for exhibit size.

**Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:** Yes

**Comments:** Have been housed with certain species of lemur in large habitats as well as other Madagascar bird species.

**Optimal Habitat Size:** Large enough for flight and natural nesting and foraging behaviors.

**Management Challenges:** [Click here to enter text.](#)

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

This species has been known to thrive well in a large outdoor free-flighted exhibit with adequate shelter as the seasons allow. When given many nest site opportunities as well nesting material they can quickly build a nest once they choose a site. The parents work well together in nest building as well as chick rearing until chicks have fledged.

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## REFERENCES:

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## COMPLETED BY:

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