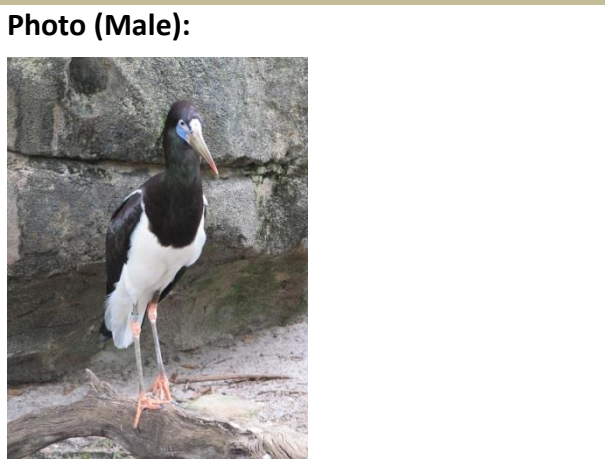


# Species Fact Sheets

**Order:** Ciconiiformes  
**Scientific Name:** *Ciconia abdimii*

**Family:** Ciconiidae  
**Common Name:** Abdim's Stork

**AZA Management:**  Green       Yellow       Red       None



**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       Savanna woodland

**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       Like other storks, these birds defecate on their legs, which helps them maintain body temperature via evaporative cooling.

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

**Captive Dietary Needs:**  
 Their diet should include a variety of items including insects (i.e. crickets or mealworms), small rodents, small or cut up fish and a ground meat product (i.e. beef or horse). Some individuals might show a preference for one item or another, so a variety should be offered.

When chicks are present, Abdim's Storks will regurgitate items onto the nest for their chicks to consume, so some smaller items (pinkie mice) should be offered as well. Overall diet should be increased whenever chicks are present or expected.

# Species Fact Sheets

## Sample diet:

AM Feed per adult bird – 1/8 cup live Superworm (*Zophopbas morio*)/Cricket 3/4" (*Acheta domestica*) mix

PM Feed per adult bird – 100 g Mouse fuzzy, 110g Lake Smelt or 4" Trout pieces, 80g TZ Small Carnivore Diet, 1g Thiamin E paste

**Life Expectancy in the Wild:** Males: 16-20 years Females: 16-20 years

**Life Expectancy in Captivity:** Males: Oldest in the studbook is 31 years Females: Oldest in the studbook is 30 years

## BREEDING INFORMATION:

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

**Courtship Displays:** Both sexes will display bill-clattering. The soliciting behavior consists of going back and forth between standing and sitting while head shaking side to side.

**Nest Site Description:** The storks will build in trees, cliffs or on rooftops using sticks and vegetation. They will often reuse nests, adding sticks until they collapse.

**Clutch Size, Egg Description:** 2-4 eggs (Eggs are a dull white)

**Incubation Period:** 28-31 days

**Fledgling Period:** ~60 days

**Parental Care:** They are taken care of by both parents, who both incubate and feed by regurgitating onto the floor of the nest.

**Chick Development:** Hatching is asynchronous, and chicks are born almost naked but develop a light gray down in a few days.

## CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

**Social Structure in the Wild:** Their natural range is Africa, south of the Sahara and even into southwest Arabia. They usually breed north of the equator and then spend the rest of the year in eastern and southern parts of Africa. Movements seem largely timed to follow the rains. They are normally found in open grasslands, but can also be found in cultivated areas near water, and even in semi-deserts. They usually roost on trees or cliffs. They are common to abundant throughout their range, at times gathering during migration in groups of thousands. The species is gregarious and is rarely seen in groups of less than 10, often traveling in vast flocks of c.10,000.

**Social Structure in Captivity:** Often maintained as a pair in captivity, but can be maintained in small flocks, exhibit size dependent.

**Minimum Group Size:** 2

**Maximum Group Size:** Exhibit size dependent

# Species Fact Sheets

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**Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:** Yes      **Comments:** Do well with small hoofstock and tortoises.

**Optimal Habitat Size:** For a pair, approximately 1500 sq. ft.

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

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

## REFERENCES:

BirdLife International 2012. *Ciconia abdimii*. In: IUCN 2013. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2013.1.

AZA Breeding and Transfer Recommendations for ABDIM'S STORK (*Ciconia abdimii*) Population Management Plan for 2009-2010.

Hancock, Kushlan and Kahl (1992) *Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills of the World*. Academic Press, London.

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## COMPLETED BY:

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**Date:** 5/16/2014