

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Gruiformes
Scientific Name: *Zapornia flavirostra*

Family: Rallidae
Common Name: Black Crake

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Monomorphic):



Photo (Nest with Eggs):



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 [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:

Diets vary widely between institutions. Most common ingredients include soft-bill pellets, meat and invertebrates.

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: Unknown Females: Unknown

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: 5.7 years Females: 5.7 years

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BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 8 months Females: 8 months

Courtship Displays: Feeding, mutual preening, bowing and wing movements

Nest Site Description: Vegetation, usually on or near water.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 2 – 6 eggs; white with brown spots

Incubation Period: 13 - 19 days

Fledgling Period: 5 – 6 weeks

Parental Care: Fed by both parents until fledging

Chick Development: Leaves nest around day 3; very precocial. Offspring will typically remain with parents until next breeding season. Immature birds are brown with black bills, red eyes and brownish pink legs.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Typically solitary or in pairs.

Social Structure in Captivity: Typically breeding pairs housed with potential offspring. Single or same-sex pairings if not breeding. Larger exhibits can accommodate multiple breeding pairs or large same-sex groups.

Minimum Group Size: 1

Maximum Group Size: No limit given sufficient space. Typical aviaries house a pair.

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes **Comments:** Avoid other rail species if exhibiting a breeding pair.

Optimal Habitat Size: Non-breeding pair: at least 1500 sq. ft. Breeding pair: at least 2000 sq. ft. depending on other species in habitat.

Management Challenges: Increased aggression during breeding. Chicks are very precocial with high first year mortality.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Male crakes trend a little heavier but overall species is monomorphic.

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Photo Credit – Adult Crake: Tony Faria, www.flickr.com/people/tonif

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Date: 9/4/2017