

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Cuculiformes
Scientific Name: *Tauraco leucotis*

Family: Musophagidae
Common Name: White-cheeked Turaco

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Monomorphic):



Photo (Monomorphic):



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
 Found in the countries of Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Sudan. Prefers humid montane forest, especially Podocarpus and juniper, but can also be seen in trees and bush along rivers.

Circadian Cycle: Diurnal Crepuscular Nocturnal Other
 Mainly arboreal, they typically descend to the ground to drink or bathe. A large part of the day is spent feeding, broken up by short rest intervals spent preening or basking in the sun.

Cold Tolerance: To 70° F To 60° F To 50° F To 40° F
 To 30° F To 20° F Other
 Cold tolerant species as long as they are able to shelter from the elements. Access to a

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heated shelter during times when temperature drops below 50 degrees F for birds maintained outdoors will prevent frostbite and encourage them to maintain activity levels.

	To 30° F	<input type="checkbox"/>	To 50° F	<input type="checkbox"/>	To 70° F	<input type="checkbox"/>	To 90° F	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Heat Tolerance:	To 110° F	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	This species will cool themselves with gular fluttering and are heat tolerant as long as they are not unduly stressed. They can withstand summer temperatures in excess of 95 degrees F with high relative humidity provided they have access to shade.				

Diet:	Frugivore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carnivore	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscivore	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insectivore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Nectivore	<input type="checkbox"/>	Omnivore	<input type="checkbox"/>	Folivore	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Add Below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Captive Dietary Needs:

Primarily frugivorous, but have been known to take insects, especially during chick rearing. Most captive diets consist of chopped fruit and veggies with a protein source in the form of a commercial pellet.

Life Expectancy in the Wild:	Males:	Unknown	Females:	Unknown
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Life Expectancy in Captivity:	Males:	MLE is 10.3 years, longest surviving male was 36.	Females:	MLE is 10.3 years, longest surviving female was 34.
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BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity:	Males:	1-2 years	Females:	1-2 years
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Courtship Displays:	Chasing, calling, head bobbing, preening, feeding and beak clapping usually precede copulation.
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Nest Site Description:	Flimsy nest consisting of small twigs and sticks. Are known to accept nesting platforms and open fronted nest boxes.
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Clutch Size, Egg Description:	1-3, but most commonly 2, round white eggs
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Incubation Period: 20-23 days	Fledgling Period: 25-26 days
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Parental Care:	Both parents share incubation and chick rearing duties. Both parents will guard and defend the nest.
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Chick Development: Parents will generally eat the eggshell once the chick has hatched. Chicks are covered in grey/black downy feathers and their eyes are open. For the first 4-6 days, a weight gain of 15-20% is normal. Growth slows to 10% per day as feathers erupt and the chick becomes more active in the nest. Chicks grow rapidly and may begin to explore the area around the nest as early as 12 days. Adequate perching around the nest area is critical for the safety of the chick as it becomes more mobile.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Territorial and will generally stay in pairs throughout the year.

Social Structure in Captivity: Work best in breeding pairs though larger all female groups have been successfully maintained.

Minimum Group Size: One

Maximum Group Size: Recommend that they are kept in monogamous pairs, though all female groups are possible in larger aviaries.

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes

Comments: Individuals have been found to be aggressive towards several species but with adequate space many are housed in mixed species aviaries. Most notably, competition for nest sites with gallinaceous birds has been noted.

Optimal Habitat Size: Smallest enclosure recommended for breeding is 7'x15'x10', individuals may be kept in smaller cages. All enclosures should be well perched to allow birds short flights and the ability to hop from branch to branch easily.

Management Challenges: Individuals can be aggressive towards conspecifics as well as cage mates. When pairing birds up, care should be taken to allow for proper introductions in an off exhibit area where separation is easily accomplished.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

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REFERENCES:

Click here to enter text.

COMPLETED BY:

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