

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Anseriformes
Scientific Name: *Anas bernieri*

Family: Anatidae
Common Name: Madagascar Teal

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other Only found on Madagascar

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other Low altitude coastal areas, often associated with large rivers. And mangroves.

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 Are hardy down to 32 degrees Fahrenheit with acclimation. Reports of birds being kept outdoors in brief spouts of temperatures as low as 15 degrees Fahrenheit with open water sources. See comments(1)

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F To 50° F To 70° F To 90° F
 To 110° F Other No heat intolerance reported. See comments (1). Shade and fresh open, clean water should be provided with temps over 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

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

Captive Dietary Needs:

A balanced wildfowl pellet is sufficient. Non-breeding- Maintenance pellet with 15.5 % protein. Breeding- breeder pellet 17.5% protein. A mixture of seed (millet and other small seeds) is readily eaten. Mealworms, crickets and other small invertebrates are eaten by both adults and young. Greens and mixed chopped fruit and vegetables (apples, corn, carrots, peas) can be offered but some individuals may not readily eat them.

Ducklings Should be provided a Starter Crumb (20 % protein) that then should be replaced with Grower Pellet (17.5 % protein) when the first feathers begin to emerge at around 14 days of age. Ducklings are should allowed the adult diet at around fledging. Small amounts of chopped lettuce, grated hard-boiled egg, and small insects may be provided.

Calcium supplements should be provided.

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|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Life Expectancy in the Wild: | Males: Unknown | Females: Unknown |
| Life Expectancy in Captivity: | Males: Unknown but 18 yrs. have been reported | Females: Unknown but 18 yrs. have been reported |

BREEDING INFORMATION:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| Age at Sexual Maturity: | Males: 11 months, Preferred breeding age 2 yrs. | Females: 11 months, Preferred breeding age 2 yrs. |
|--------------------------------|---|---|

Courtship Displays: None reported but birds create a strong pair bond.

Breeding Season: No defined breeding seasons seems to occur. However, the highest number of hatching's have occurred during the months of May-September. The breeding season appears to co-inside with the rainy season in Madagascar (which can be reproduced in captivity). It appears breeding can occur any time of the year (inside and outdoors) as long as conditions are suitable.

Nest Site Description: Wild-First recorded in 1997, all nests of wild Madagascar Teal found have since been in natural cavities in only one tree species, Grey Mangrove *Avicennia marina*.

Captivity-Natural tree cavities can be easily replicated by using nest-boxes or hollowed logs. Nest boxes are typically placed approximately 3 m above the ground usually close to the water's edge. Teal have also used boxes 5 m above the ground. It is likely that pinioned birds would use boxes closer to the ground. In 2004, a female Teal with no box nested on the ground. Nest-boxes may have a small block of wood attached below the entrance

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hole to aid landing and entry by the female. A small layer of wood-shavings or plant compost is always added to new boxes, as birds will not carry in any nesting material.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: Typically, 6-7 eggs are laid in each clutch (mean 6.75; n=52, 3-9). Eggs are smooth, elliptical and pale fawny-buff to yellowish-buff in colour and average 46.3 x 34.8 mm in dimensions (n=374, 40.6-51.4 x 32.3-39.9) and weigh on average 29.4 g (n=22, 27.3-32.4). In captivity, Teal have readily laid replacement clutches if the eggs have been collected and, presumably because of longer breeding conditions than would be available in Madagascar, two broods of young have been reared by pairs in the same year.

Incubation Period: Incubation is by the female alone, and the eggs hatch after approximately 27-28 days.

Fledgling Period: Fledge (are capable of their first flight) at 45-49 days old. Madagascar Teal are fully grown at approximately 12 weeks old.

Parental Care: Ideally, ducklings should be left with their parents for rearing. Both male and female will protect the young and aggressively defend them against conspecifics, other animals and even humans. Males will respond to the distress calls of their offspring but only the female will brood the young. Food such as crumb and mealworms should be sprinkled around pond edges when the young are freshly hatched but the brood will quickly learn to leave the water to feed from a bowl.

Chick Development: Ducklings weigh on average 18.4 g on hatching. The first proper feathers begin to emerge through the natal down at about 14 days old, the first wing feathers (remiges) appearing at about 21 days. Wing feathers grow at 3-5 mm a day and measurement of the growing wing can be used to indicate the duckling's age

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Little is known. Small flocks seen outside of breeding season. Pairs are very territorial during breeding season.

Social Structure in Captivity: Although Teal can be maintained in mixed sex flocks outside of the breeding season, and in conditions where breeding cannot be attempted, Teal should only be kept in pairs. The highly aggressive nature of Madagascar Teal will mean that attempts to keep more than one pair in an aviary will generally prove disastrous and it is even rare that trios can be maintained in normal enclosures. Same sex flocks can be kept together. Flocks of adult Teals (up to 16 birds) have been housed together in aviaries during the non-breeding season, (November-April) since 1998 in Jersey.

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Minimum Group Size: Minimum 2 if not breeding, only one breeding pair should be kept together. see above

Maximum Group Size: Only one breeding pair should be kept together. see above

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:

Varies

Comments:

-Madagascar Teals may create a territory during the breeding season and may protect this area during the breeding season, some chasing and displacement has been reported.

-Madagascar Teal should be watched closely after mixing with other species and, as the breeding season approaches, it is worth remembering which other birds each pair is tolerant of.

-Individuals and individual pairs have been tolerant of other species.

-Caution should be used when mixing with shy ground birds such as ground dwelling Columbiformes. Tolerant of many species of birds. Teals have been successfully mixed with Lemur Species and medium sized Tortoises.

-See comments (2)

-See comments (3)

Optimal Habitat Size: 30x13x13ft/Pair, height of at least 10ft for nest-boxes. Larger enclosure needed if housed with other species.

Management Challenges:

Finding additional facilities to work with Madagascar Teals is a high priority and finding facilities willing to incorporate Mad teals with other species (outside of tropical aviaries) for better management of the species within the AZA population and AZA facilities. Changing the bad reputation this species has been labeled is a must and been a challenge. AZA zoos have provided this species with ideal habitats that promote breeding, as well as the territorial behavior that has been seen during the breeding season, and have caused many zoo to shy away from this species. The territorial behavior during the breeding season was a shock to many and has since given this species an undeserving bad reputation.

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

1-More knowledge is needed on the hardness of this species. Most are housed indoors and in tropical settings.
2-More knowledge is needed on the compatibility with other species.
3-Contact the Studbook Keeper for a full list of species that have been successfully kept with Madagascar Teals.

*All Madagascar Teals are owned by The Madagascar Government (MEF) and managed by Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. All facilities must have a loan agreement signed between their facility and Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. The North American Regional Studbook Keeper will provide the document on behalf of Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust.

*Mad Teals like to roost off the ground. Birds like to go high and still spend a significant amount of time on the ground and in water. Pinioned will find all routes into the trees and try to roost off of the ground.

*Male and female Madagascar Teal are very similar and are best differentiated by vocalizations. Males, however, are typically larger than females and almost always have larger skulls (measure from the bill tip to the back of the head).

*Measurements and weights: from captive population at Jersey Zoo:
Wing: Male 213 mm (n = 41, 205-220); Female 205.6 mm (n = 50, 188-217).
Bill: Male 34.75 mm (n = 7, 33.5-37.5); Female 33.7 mm (n = 10, 33-36).
Skull: Male 82.6 mm (n = 41, 79.7-84.9); Female 79.2 mm (n = 52, 76.5-81.7).
Weight: Male 387 g (n = 39, 325-420); Female 361 g (n = 49, 270-408).

*Length 16 inches (40 cm): from Scott & Lubbock 1974.

REFERENCES:

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Mikel, Craig 2015. AZA Regional Studbook

H. GLYN YOUNG¹, FÉLIX RAZAFINDRAJAO² & RICHARD E. LEWIS². 2013. Madagascar's wildfowl (Anatidae) in the new millennium

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