

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Gruiformes
Scientific Name: *Balearica pavonina*

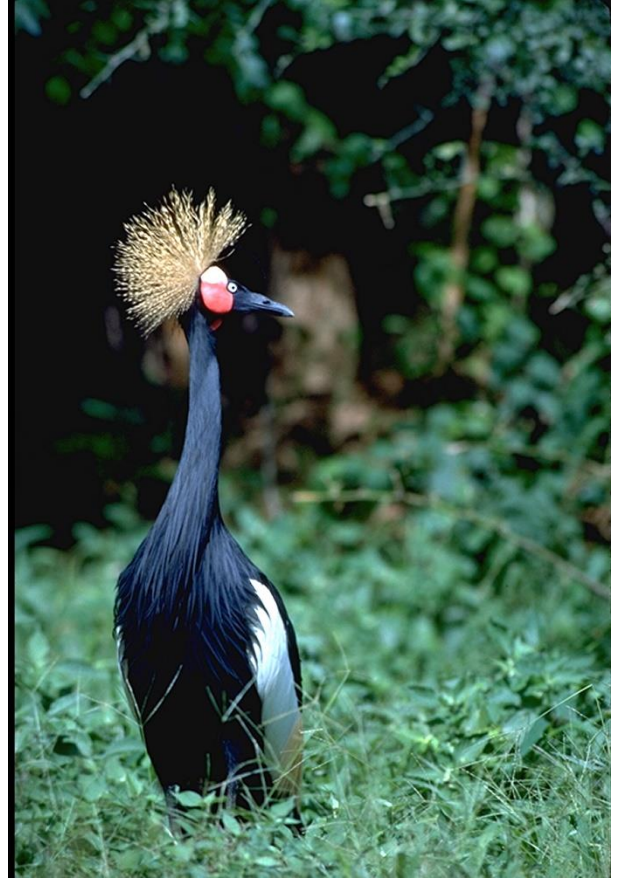
Family: Gruidae
Common Name: West African Crowned Crane,
Black Crowned Crane

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):



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 Frostbite is a risk

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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:

Mazuri and Zeigler both make a pellet diet (breeder, maintenance and chick starter). Many zoos also provide gamebird, cracked corn or high protein dog food. Cranes enjoy a variety of additional food items, including fish, fruits, worms, pinkies and insects. Oyster shell may be made available during the breeding season.

The crane husbandry manual has a section on diets and can be found online at:
<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/resshow/gee/cranbook/cranebook.htm>

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

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: 40's Females: 40's

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: Approximately 3 Females: Approximately 3

Courtship Displays: Elaborate courtship with dancing

Nest Site Description: Grass nests built on the ground, preferably near dense wetlands

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 2-5 eggs laid, bluish in color

Incubation Period: 28-31 days

Fledgling Period: 60-100 days

Parental Care: Both parents care for the chick(s).

Chick Development: Chicks are able to get up and move around soon after hatching. Siblings can be quite aggressive towards each other and unless the parents intervene, it is possible for one chick to kill the other.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: During the non-breeding season this species will congregate into larger flocks. During the breeding (rainy) season, territorial monogamous pairs will move from the larger wetlands to smaller wetlands that are temporary due to the rains.

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Social Structure in Captivity: Monogamous pairs. We are testing out family groups kept together for multiple years and flocks of unrelated birds.

Minimum Group Size: 1

Maximum Group Size: As many as can get along peacefully

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes

Comments:

In larger zoos they are often displayed with various hoofstock and bird species. Can be aggressive towards smaller waterfowl or geese. Small risk of being run over by larger hoofstock.

Optimal Habitat Size: The larger the better, especially if mixed with hoofstock. Zoo exhibits range from 300 square feet up to acres of space. Access to a water feature is beneficial.

Management Challenges: For zoos with limited space, making sure you have a separate yard for chicks once they are close to 1 year old is a must. Some birds can be aggressive, especially in the breeding season. Birds can either be shifted to a different space for servicing or a broom can be used to keep the birds back while a second keeper cleans.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Click here to enter text.

REFERENCES:

Johnsgard PA. 1983. Cranes of the world. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

Meine, Curt D. and Archibald, George W. (Eds) 1996. The Cranes:-Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland, and Cambridge, U.K. 294pp

<http://www.npwr.usgs.gov/resource/birds/cranes/balepavo.htm#habitat>

<http://www.savingcranes.org/black-crowned-crane.html>

<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/resshow/gee/cranbook/cranebook.htm>

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