

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Ciconiiformes
Scientific Name: Mycteria cinerea

Family: Ciconiidae
Common Name: Milky stork

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 [Click here to enter text.](#)

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F To 50° F To 70° F To 90° F
 To 110° F Other

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

Captive Dietary Needs:

Fish, meat, whole prey items such as mice, pinkies, and large insects such as superworms

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: ~20 yrs, unknown Females: ~20 years, unknown

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: Approximately 30 yrs Females: Approximately 30 yrs

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BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 2 yrs Females: 2 yrs

Courtship Displays: Bowing, bill clacking and snapping, raised wings (but not extended) by both sexes while standing in nest.

Nest Site Description: Mostly stick and grass construction off the ground at highest point possible for nesting sites. Size is approximately a 2' by 2' and a depth of 8 inches. Nest locations need to have adequate space above nests to allow for males to copulate on top of a standing female in a nest.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 2 -3 eggs per clutch, smallish (compared to body size), chalky white, dense shelled eggs.

Incubation Period: 27 – 30 days

Fledgling Period: 8 weeks

Parental Care: Both parents care for chicks throughout the rearing process til weaned by parents post fledge

Chick Development: Altricial. Chicks don't move much until approximately 7 weeks. Need exposure to natural lighting for proper bone development.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Colonial gregarious species

Social Structure in Captivity: Colonial gregarious species

Minimum Group Size: 2, optimal breeding with at least 3 pairs

Maximum Group Size: Max dependent on enclosure size

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes **Comments:** Tend to be submissive to other dominant species

Optimal Habitat Size: Sufficient space to allow for full flights, space to avoid human interactions, and height (~12') to allow for nesting off the ground. Ideally 50' x 50' x 12'. A pond that allows for wading is optimal.

Management Challenges: Captive population is very small and has historically been stagnant in breeding due to management. Very dense eggs lend itself in hatching difficulties.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

This species needs to be fully flighted in order to have successful breeding.

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REFERENCES:

BirdLife International 2016. *Mycteria cinerea*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016: e.T22697651A93627701. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2016-3.RLTS.T22697651A93627701.en>.

Hancock, J.A, Kushlan, J.A., and Kahl, M.P. (1992) *Storks, Ibises, and Spoonbills of the World*. Academic Press Inc., San Diego.

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COMPLETED BY:

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