

# Species Fact Sheets

**Order:** Bucerotiformes  
**Scientific Name:** *Buceros bicornis*

**Family:** Bucerotidae  
**Common Name:** Great Hornbill

**AZA Management:**  Green  Yellow  Red  None

**Photo (Male):** photo credit Charles Waradee



**Photo (Female):** photo credit daidevision



## 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 [Birds should be offered heat if temps drop below 50 degrees Fahrenheit.](#)

**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:**

low iron, soft bill pellet and fruit with protein; increase in protein during nesting

**Life Expectancy in the Wild:** Males: 35 Females: 35

**Life Expectancy in Captivity:** Males: 50 Females: 50

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## BREEDING INFORMATION:

**Age at Sexual Maturity:** Males: ~5 Females: ~5

**Courtship Displays:** Duet calling, food sharing, nest investigation

**Nest Site Description:** Artificial nests are made of a wooden barrel or box with walls ~1.2" thick (to maintain stable humidity) and height ~47.2" (tall enough for female to turn around). They are placed at least 2m above ground. The opening of nest box should be width of birds' shoulders plus 10% so female may add wood shavings, leaves, etc. to nest floor and allow defecation out of nest hole; some feces and uneaten soft foods may be used by the birds to seal nest opening.

**Clutch Size, Egg Description:** 1-4 clutch size, typically 1 surviving offspring

**Incubation Period:** 37 to 42 days

**Fledgling Period:** Approximately 105 days

**Parental Care:** Female stays in nest with offspring for ~5 weeks, then joins male outside to feed chicks until fledge. Offspring stays with adults for 6-9 months.

**Chick Development:** Chicks hatch inside the nest cavity with no feathers and their eyes are closed. When the chicks fledge from the nest cavity they are fully feathered.

## CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

**Social Structure in the Wild:** Bonded pairs can be found roosting and feeding in larger groups.

**Social Structure in Captivity:** Bonded pairs

**Minimum Group Size:** 1

**Maximum Group Size:** Pair with young offspring

**Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:** No

**Comments:**

Smaller exhibit mates are looked at as potential food items and larger species would be a target of aggression.

**Optimal Habitat Size:** 40-66' x 16' x 12' (L x W x H)

**Management Challenges:** They can be aggressive and territorial. This species has proven to be difficult to successfully pair, and therefore breed.

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

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## REFERENCES:

[Animaldiversity.org/accounts/Buceros\\_bicornis](http://Animaldiversity.org/accounts/Buceros_bicornis)

Tickell, SR (1864). "On the hornbills of India and Burmah". *Ibis*. 6 (2): 173–182. doi:10.1111/j.1474-919X.1864.tb07860.x.

del Hoyo, J., Elliot, A., Sargatal, J., (Eds.) (2001) *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Volume 6: Mousebirds to Hornbills*. Barcelona: Lynx Ediciones

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