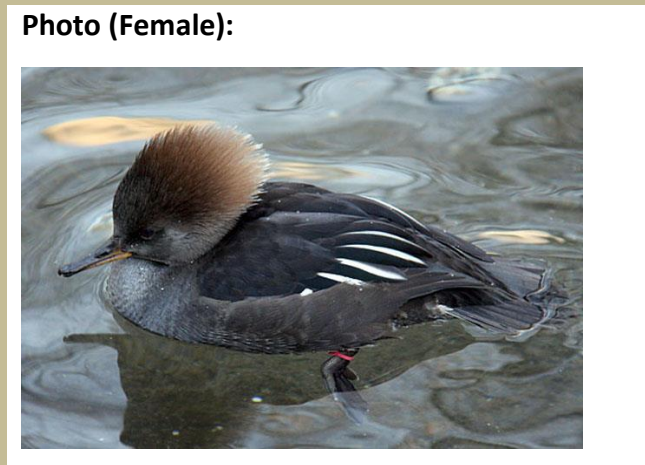
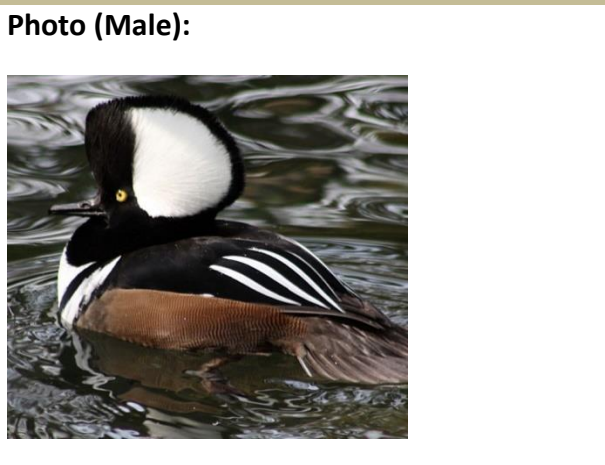


# Species Fact Sheets

**Order:** Anseriformes  
**Scientific Name:** *Lophodytes cucullatus*

**Family:** Anatidae  
**Common Name:** Hooded Merganser

**AZA Management:**  Green  Yellow  Red  None



**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  Below freezing need open water

**Heat Tolerance:** To 30° F  To 50° F  To 70° F  To 90° F   
 To 110° F  Other  Above 90F provide shaded areas.

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

**Captive Dietary Needs:**  
 Mazuri waterfowl maintenance/breeder or Seaduck. Supplement with fish (capelin, smelt, silversides) treated with supplemental Thiamine/E.

**Life Expectancy in the Wild:** Males: Likely ~10-12 years Females: Likely ~10-12 years

**Life Expectancy in Captivity:** Males: ~10-12 years Females: ~10-12 years

# Species Fact Sheets

## BREEDING INFORMATION:

**Age at Sexual Maturity:** Males: 2 years Females: 2 years

**Courtship Displays:** Males pursue females with crest fully erect and throats expanded. Drakes vocalize loudly.

**Nest Site Description:** Nest in a tree cavity, preferably woodpecker holes. Clutch size up to 12, but species is known for nest parasitizing in their own species and others.

**Clutch Size, Egg Description:** 10-12 cream to blackish white, roundish eggs. Eggs are laid every other day. 53-54 mm x 42-43mm x 42-43 mm.

**Incubation Period:** 28-30 days

**Fledgling Period:** 10 weeks.

**Parental Care:** Females incubate and males act as sentinel for a period before going to the molting grounds. Females brood the ducklings on their own, and may abandon offspring prior to fledging.

**Chick Development:** Ducklings are dark brown, with white spots on the body and white abdomens. Ducklings hatch out around 28-35g. By 28 days Retrices are fully grown and primaries are starting to grow in. By 60 days all flight feathers are fully grown in.

## CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

**Social Structure in the Wild:** Tend to be less social, flocking to less than 15 birds.

**Social Structure in Captivity:** Can mix multiple pairs on exhibit, but exhibit size should be considered as well as nesting opportunities. During breeding season drakes will chase cage mates from their territory, which can be over a 1/3 of the exhibit. However displacement is not actively aggressive; males in pursuit will mount other birds for a short bout and then quickly retreat to their territory.

1.1

**Minimum Group Size:**

Maximum Group Size: Few pairs, or with extra females, or same sexed groups to mitigate exhibit size and breeding territories.

**Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:** Yes **Comments:** Do well mixed with a variety of other waterfowl species.

**Optimal Habitat Size:** Exhibit should house at least 6" of water, but ideally would be a pond or pool. Birds are on land on branches or rocks when roosting, or in trees when nesting, otherwise they will be found loafing about in the water.

**Management Challenges:** A great introduction into the more advanced species of waterfowl hand-rearing. Ducklings need to be given access to water within the first few days. Can be difficult to introduce zoo diet without stimulation from keeper.

# Species Fact Sheets

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## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Incubation parameters: 37.5C; 45% RH.  
For hand-rearing protocol email Jamie.ries@state.mn.us

## REFERENCES:

Todd, Frank S. (1996). Natural History of the Waterfowl. Ibis Publishing Company, California.

del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A. & Sargatal, J. eds. (1992). Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol. 1. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

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## COMPLETED BY:

Name: Jamie Ries

Date: 1/1/2015