

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Ciconiiformes
Scientific Name: Mycteria leucocephala

Family: Ciconiidae
Common Name: Painted Stork

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 Freshwater marshes, lakes, fields

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 40F with heat

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F To 50° F To 70° F To 90° F
 To 110° F Other With shade. High humidity combined with high temperatures can cause loss of chicks.

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

Captive Dietary Needs:

Adult diet for 1 bird (resource: San Diego Zoo's Safari Park—2012):
 130g zoo carnivore diet
 260g small trout (305 inches)*
 2 whole capelin smelt
 1 whole adult mouse
 *trout are injected with 1.0 ml Vit E/Thiamin solution

Species Fact Sheets

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: ~30 years, unknown Females: ~30 years, unknown

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: Oldest in the studbook 26 years Females: Oldest in the studbook 20 years

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 3-4 years Females: 3-4 years

Courtship Displays: Bowing ritual, “wing-woofing,” bill clattering, “display preening,” “flying around” and “gaping.” Sexes are monomorphic.

Nest Site Description: Nest of sticks made up of material found in marshy areas, laid in trees. Painted storks are colonial nesters.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 2-5 eggs, white oval.

Incubation Period: 28-32 days

Fledgling Period: 60 days

Parental Care: Both parents tend to the chicks, shading them from sun and providing food in the nest.

Chick Development: Chicks hatch out downy white. Immature birds are dull brown on the head and the neck. Young birds make loud hoarse calls until eighteen months of age when communication progresses to bill clattering, hissing, bowing, and spreading their wings

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Colonial breeders.

Social Structure in Captivity: Colonial breeders.

Minimum Group Size: 3.3 is best, 2.2 for a non-breeding group.

Maximum Group Size: Limited by size of flight; these birds do best in large groups.

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes **Comments:** Do best with species smaller than them. Have been held with Yellow-billed Storks and do not do well with them.

Optimal Habitat Size: 50' x 50' x 15'H. Trees should be kept 3'-4' from the top of the aviary netting, allowing birds to circle above and roost if they choose. Trim the base of the trees to provide a shaded area. Nest platforms can be used in lieu of trees, placed about 8' apart. Flighted birds prefer to nest in trees or on platforms 8' tall; pinioned birds require platforms no more than 4' off the ground or they should be provided with a ladder. Habitat should have a water source, optimally with a steady slope towards a deeper area, about 44". Pool should have good overflow to clean the grease off the surface since birds wash their food and use the same water to bathe. Tall grasses in an enclosure can help keep legs clean, provides an environment for

Species Fact Sheets

foraging and a cool area during the summer heat. Painted-Storks can be housed in walk-through aviaries, if provided the height and ability to circle and fly from one end to the other away from the public. Water quality for cage mates should be considered when housing Painted Storks in mixed-species exhibits.

Management Challenges: One option to maintaining a breeding recommendation is to split the breeding pairs with a fence so that birds can still see each other and maintain a flock experience, with platforms or trees adjacent to each other on either side of the fence. Birds breed best when kept in groups of at least 6.

AZA support has recently been among 5 institutions and new holders are needed to maintain this species in AZA collections.

EAZA collections are seeing a decline in numbers due to zoos not investing in winter quarters for them. In recent years, they have begun focusing on the Yellow-billed Stork as representative of *Mycteria* species. South East Asian zoos still house them. (Cathy King, Ciconiiformes and Phoenicopteriformes TAG chair, March 2013)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Artificial incubation parameters (San Diego Zoo's Safari Park 2011):

dry bulb- 99F

wet bulb- 86F

28 day incubation

Actual % egg weight loss 10.5-11.4%, target had been 10-14%.

Please email studbook keeper for hand-rearing protocol and graphs (courtesy of San Diego Zoo's Safari Park 2011).

REFERENCES:

BirdLife International 2012. *Mycteria leucocephala*. In: IUCN 2013. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2013.2. <www.iucnredlist.org>. Downloaded on 18 March 2014.

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

King, B. F. and Dickinson, E. C. (1975). A Field Guide to the Birds of South-East Asia. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.

Urfi, A. J. (2011). The Painted Stork. Ecology and Conservation. Springer Science + Business Media, LLC, New York.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

[Click here to enter text.](#)

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Species Fact Sheets

Click here to enter text.

Click here to enter text.

COMPLETED BY:

Name: Jamie Ries; Painted Stork Studbook Keeper;
Minnesota Zoo

Date: 3/18/2014