

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Galliformes
Scientific Name: *Crax alberti*

Family: Cracidae
Common Name: Blue-billed Curassow

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other Colombia

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 [Click here to enter text.](#)

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

Captive Dietary Needs:

Some sort of Galliformes pellet, daily chopped fruits, and peanuts as a treat. Adult Curassows generally do not eat insects but on occasion they will eat pinkie or fur mice.

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

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: 20-29 years Females: 20-29 years

Species Fact Sheets

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 2 to 3 years Females: 2 to 4 years

Courtship Displays: The male will offer the hen items and “sing “ to her with the offered item in his beak.

Nest Site Description: They like to nest in trees. At Houston, we use metal wash tubs filled with hay that are placed at least four feet off the ground. Other institutions have also had success with wooden boxes or even large woven baskets.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: Clutch size for this species is two large white eggs laid one day apart.

Incubation Period: 30-31 days

Fledgling Period: None

Parental Care: Both parents will care for the chicks. In some cases, males have been removed from their enclosures once the chicks have hatched as there have been injuries to chicks, not out of aggression but out of excitement. Those institutions that have parent-raised will separate males out from the hens and the chicks but allow them to have visual contact. The males can eventually be placed back in the enclosure once the chicks are larger.

Chick Development: Very rapid. Curassows hatch with flight feathers and can fly the day of hatching. Please contact the Studbook holder for more intensive chick weight information.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Little is known of the wild habits of this species. Likely they form monogamous pairs that stay together year round and their chicks stay with the parents for a year or so before being run out of the parent’s territory.

Social Structure in Captivity: This species should be housed in monogamous pairs. Multiple hens can be housed together in a single sex flock. Males can only be housed in a single sex flock if they are not sexually mature, otherwise they will begin to fight.

Minimum Group Size: 1.1

Maximum Group Size: 1.1.2 to account for chicks.

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes

Comments:

This species has been housed with many different bird species. Special caution needs to be taken during the breeding season of other birds they are mixed with. Curassows are curious by nature and can cause trauma to fledglings of other species.

Optimal Habitat Size: Minimum dimensions of 6’ W x 8’H x 20’L can provide adequate space for a pair of birds, though enclosures of larger size are preferred.

Species Fact Sheets

Management Challenges: Hand-raised animals can be challenging to house in pairs due to aggression from imprinted males. These pairings can be managed for breeding in exhibits across from each other, but care should be taken to always introduce the male into the female's territory. The SSP manager and/or the Studbook holder will advise, in advance of placement, if a bird may have behavioral problems. Please contact the SSP manager and/or Studbook holder if there are questions or concerns with individual pairings or introduction techniques.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

This species is currently listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN.

REFERENCES:

Click here to enter text.

Click here to enter text.

Click here to enter text.

Click here to enter text.

Click here to enter text.

Click here to enter text.

Click here to enter text.

Click here to enter text.

Click here to enter text.

COMPLETED BY:

Name: Chris Holmes/Kelly Pardy

Date: 8/10/2017