

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Columbiformes
Scientific Name: Goura cristata

Family: Columbidae
Common Name: Western Crowned Pigeon

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other Oceania (Indonesia and Papua New Guinea)

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other Interior of lowland forest. Also found in marshy and partly flooded forest, as well as in hilly forest up to 350 meters above sea level, forests with dense secondary growth and mangroves

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 Heat sources should be offered when temperatures are 40° F or lower. *See note under additional comments.

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F To 50° F To 70° F To 90° F
 To 110° F Other They can tolerate heat but get lethargic when temperatures are greater than 95° F.

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Diet:	Frugivore	X	Carnivore	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscivore	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insectivore	X
	Nectivore	<input type="checkbox"/>	Omnivore	X	Folivore	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Add Below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Captive Dietary Needs:

1 part fruit mix, 1 part dog food (River Run 21/10 by Nutrena), 1 part cat food, 1 part pigeon seed/pellets, 1 part whole corn

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: Up to 20 years Females: Up to 20 years

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: Up to 30 years Females: Up to 30 years

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 10-16 months Females: 10-16 months

Courtship Displays: The male gives a loud booming call and bows his head, displaying his fanned tail and partially open wings. He will also dance with up-stretched wings. The female lifts her wings high and runs around him in circles

Nest Site Description: Large nest of sticks built on a horizontal branch up to 10 meters above ground. They often build their nests over or close to streams or dry riverbeds in the wild.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: One large, white egg

Incubation Period: 28-29 days

Fledgling Period: 30-36 days

Parental Care: Both sire and dam incubate egg in addition to brooding and feeding the chick.

Chick Development: Nestling has dark gray skin. After fledging, may return to the nest over a month after fledging. May be supplementally fed by sire and dam for up to 56 days after fledging.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Forages on the ground, usually in small groups of 2-10 birds.

Social Structure in Captivity: Juveniles can be kept in a mixed sex flock in a large enclosure. Once they begin to nest, there can be aggression amongst conspecifics. Breeding pairs should be housed in their own enclosure.

Minimum Group Size: 2

Maximum Group Size: Unknown

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**Compatible in
Mixed Species Exhibits:**

Yes

Comments:

Compatible with other pheasant and waterfowl species. They tend to be the dominant bird but once territories are established, there are minimal aggression issues.

Optimal Habitat Size: For breeding pairs, 12' wide x 14' deep x 8' high pens. Larger for groups or aviaries with mixed species.

Management Challenges: They can be aggressive towards care givers and guests, particularly during breeding season. Parent reared birds work best for walkthrough aviaries however, they might not be as visible as hand reared birds. Hand reared birds are better exhibit birds in aviaries where guests do not come into direct contact with them.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Hunted for food and its plumes, it remains common only in remote areas. Due to ongoing habitat loss, limited range and overhunting in some areas for food and plumes and for trade, the western crowned pigeon is evaluated as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. It is listed in Appendix II of CITES.

The Western Crowned pigeon along with the other crowned pigeon species (*G. victoria* and *G. scheepmakeri*), are the largest species of pigeon.

*A common issue with holders of Western Crowned Pigeons in Northern Zoos is partial to total toe loss due to frostbite because normal sized perching for these birds does not allow them to cover their toes properly with their bodies. It is suggested to provide wider perching near heat lamps to allow their bodies to completely cover their feet when roosting.

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REFERENCES:

BirdLife International. 2016. Goura cristata. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016: e.T22691865A93326470. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2016-3.RLTS.T22691865A93326470.en>. Downloaded on 12 February 2017.

Hancock Birds of the World Alive: <http://www.hbw.com/species/western-crowned-pigeon-goura-cristata>

<http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/western-crowned-pigeon-goura-cristata/text>

Wildscreen Archive: <http://www.arkive.org/western-crowned-pigeon/goura-cristata/image-G36645.html>

(M. Bates, personal communication, February 17, 2017).

Photographs provided by Florida Avian Conservancy

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