

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Ciconiiformes
Scientific Name: Mycteria ibis

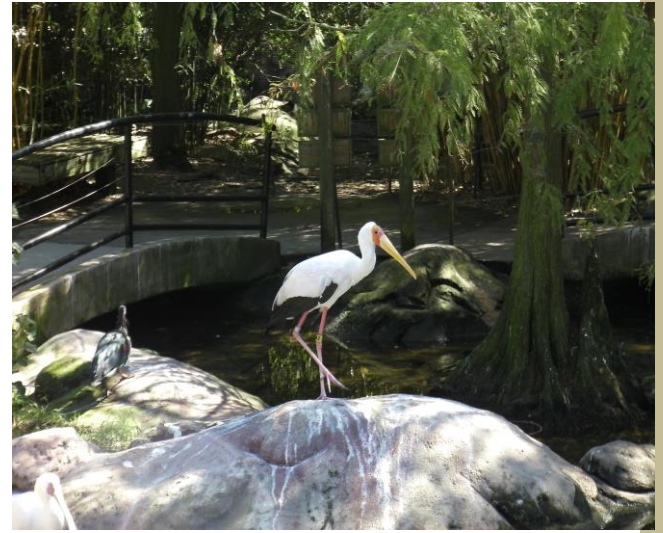
Family: Ciconiidae
Common Name: Yellow-billed stork

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):



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 Wetlands

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 This species has been exposed to lower temps than 30 degrees; upper 20's at Jacksonville zoo.

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F To 50° F To 70° F To 90° F
 To 110° F Other Tolerance up to 100 degrees; adults have a recorded behavior of Shading chicks to keep them cool.

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

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Captive Dietary Needs:

125 grams Nebraska bird of prey (may also accept mice)
250 grams of Capelin (or small trout)
.25 Thiamine paste
Osteo neckton powder sprinkled on diet

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

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: Oldest male in this population is 34 years old Females: Oldest female in this population is 32 years old

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 3 years at the minimum Females: 3 years at the minimum

Courtship Displays: Yellow-billed storks during breeding season become more colorful, their head and legs become more red; the bill becomes a brighter yellow and the wing coverts appear pinker in color

Before approaching the female, the male has a preening display that appears to expose the brightest parts of the wing to the receptive female. Female may adopt balance posture with her held head low and forward, bill agape and wings spread.

Mutual displays may include ariel clattering; swaying twig grasping; up down display are performed by the pair; bill clattering also occurs during copulation.

Nest Site Description: Old nest sites, if they are somewhat intact, may be reused but most often new nests are built consisting of sticks then lined with grasses and leaves; 80-100 cm in width and 20-30 cm in depth. The nest are built in trees utilizing natural forks. In the wild up to 50 pairs in one large tree have been recorded in the wild but 20 pairs is more common; they will nest alongside other species of aquatic birds. In human care, the species will accept nesting platforms: ~3x3 ft platforms, anywhere from 4-10 ft off the ground.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 2-3 rarely 4 eggs

Incubation Period: 30 days

Fledgling Period: 55 days

Parental Care: Both parents assist in incubation; after hatching, one parent usually tends to the chicks constantly until about 21 days of age when both parents need to forage for the growing chick

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Chick Development: Chicks grow rapidly; they hatch out around 60 grams and grow to 500 grams in 10 days; chicks have a grey 1st down which is superseded by a white woolly second down; chicks also have a braying vocalization when begging for food

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Yellow-billed storks roost with other aquatic bird species in trees and sometimes on the ground; they are nomadic migrants following seasonal rains and staying away from areas that are a poor food source; Yellow-billed storks can feed solo and also feed in large groups

Social Structure in Captivity: For most of the year, they flock loosely with other storks and African spoonbills; during breeding season (Dec-Mar) they form pairs and become territorial at their chosen nest sites.

Minimum Group Size: 1.1

Maximum Group Size: 10 in a balanced sex ratio

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes

Comments:

One facility houses their Yellow-billed storks with African spoonbills, Abdim's stork, Hadada ibis and Waldrapp ibis; Yellow-billed storks seem to get along with most birds (including many smaller species: turaco, starling, roller, hamerkop, barbet); occasionally a dominant male can be a problem toward lower-ranked males, harassing to a point of keeper intervention.

Optimal Habitat Size: A enclosure with a water feature that is 60'L by 40'W by 30'H would be very optimal

Management Challenges: Yellow-billed storks should not be permanently flight restricted and are not recommended to be housed with larger, potentially aggressive hoofstock (zebra, eland, gnu) but may mix with smaller, docile species (gerenuk, duiker, dik dik, etc.).

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

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REFERENCES:

Hand Book of the Birds of the World VOL. 1 Ostrich to Ducks Lynx edition Barcelona 1992

Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills of the World James A. Hancock, James A Kushlan and M.Pilip Kahl Academic press 1992

Observations of Captive breeding in Yellow Billed Storks (*Mycteria ibis*) Jean E. Tinsman Animal Encounter trainer Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens Jacksonville FL. Animal Keeper Forum Vol 28 No.3 2001 Pg 109-120

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COMPLETED BY:

Name: Mark DeLong

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