

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Charadriiformes
Scientific Name: *Lunda cirrhata*

Family: Alcidae
Common Name: Tufted Puffin

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other Pacific and Artic Ocean

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other Pelagic, Marine

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 Ideal air temp is 40-60 F; can be in colder short term as long as the entire colony can get in the water

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F To 50° F To 70° F To 90° F
 To 110° F Other Ideal air temp is 40-60 F, average of 50 F.

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

Captive Dietary Needs:

Whole food items recommended (small fish, invertebrates, silversides, lake smelt, capelin, small herring, salmon smolts, sand eels/lances, krill, squid, clams). Consumes about 25% of body weight daily.

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: +20 years Females: +20 years

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: +20 years Females: +20 years

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BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 3-5 years Females: 3-5 years

Courtship Displays:

In the wild, mating occurs mostly on water. Prior to copulation, male follows female at a distance of several meters. During chase, he stretches and lifts neck, directing bill straight up, opens and closes bill in a slow manner, and “jerks” head in a fast motion. Sometimes male bends neck and puts head back. Behavior continues for about 1 min. By opening and closing his bill, a male is thought to expose to a female the bright mouth-lining and expanded pink rosettes in corners of mouth. Eventually a female assumes a hunched, low-to-the-water posture with head and neck held close to body. On approaching a female, male increases frequency of “jerking” and exaggerates it. Male demonstrations followed by billing, when male and female face each other and repeatedly rub their bills together. During billing, male might grab female by the neck and/or back, a light grabbing by foot web also observed. Then a male approaches a female with lifted and slightly opened or flapping wings, followed by copulation 30–60 s in duration. During copulation, male raises off water, flaps its wings, and may or may not continue jerking its head, while female sinks so that only her head remains above water. After mating, female dives and surfaces within a few meters of male and finally flies 2–5 m away. At end, both mates flap their wings.

Nest Site Description:

In the wild, the most common nesting habitat for Tufted puffins is earthen burrows.

Tunnels and nests are usually constructed by using the feet, and sometimes bill, to excavate soil, debris, etc. from the earth. Nesting materials, such as dry grasses, small twigs, and sometimes feathers, are gathered using its bill and brought back to the nest site. Nest construction varies.

In a zoo or aquarium environment, exhibits are designed to depict natural habitats. Rockwork and substrate on exhibit and/or artificial nest boxes are used.

Clutch Size, Egg Description:

1 egg; usually dull or creamy white color and may show faint markings or spots

Incubation Period: ~45 days

Fledgling Period: ~45 days

Parental Care:

Both sexes incubate egg. Parents brood the chick for ~1-4 days until the chick can thermoregulate. Both sexes feed the chick during daylight hours. Parents do not provide any parental care post fledging.

Chick Development:

Chick growth and development can be highly variable depending on parental care and depends on daily food intake.

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CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Colony

Social Structure in Captivity: Ideal to have equal sex ratio and a range of ages in population

Minimum Group Size: 6

Maximum Group Size: 20 or more

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes **Comments:** Other alcids, oystercatchers. Can out compete auklets

Optimal Habitat Size: Min. pool depth 7 feet, average exhibit size 1,350 sq. ft, with average rock cliff height of 14 feet. Average pool volume 25,000 gallons. 75% of colony should be able to occupy water at one time. Generally have 1/3 land area to 2/3 water surface area.

Management Challenges: Aspergillosis; aggression toward conspecifics and other species, especially during breeding season. Can often defend more than one nest tunnel in captivity.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Need full spectrum lighting. Exhibit should be designed to encourage natural behaviors of swimming, diving, resting, feeding in the water, walking, climbing, nesting, porpoising, rafting, bathing, and preening.

REFERENCES:

Birds of North America

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COMPLETED BY:

Name: Sara Perry

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