

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Charadriiformes
Scientific Name: *Burhinus capensis*

Family: Burhinidae
Common Name: Spotted Dikkop

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 [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:

The spotted dikkop forages by running forward, stopping, and jabbing the food item with its bill. While these birds primarily feed on insects (e.g., crickets, grasshoppers, and mealworms), they are quite diverse eaters. The amount of live insects should be increased by at least twice the regular amount when an institution is dealing with dikkop chicks. The diets for dikkops in zoological institutions vary widely as seen in the diet list below.

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Diet 1:

38% powdered softbill pellets, 20% chopped hard-boiled egg, 15% soaked dog or cat chow, 15% Bird of Prey diet or lean hamburger, and 12% live food including chopped earthworms. All ingredients be mixed together and the meat pieces should be very small, so it easy for the birds to pick them up.

Diet 2:

Soaked dog food (30%), Bird of Prey diet (30%), superworms (10%), and gamebird chow (30%) to thick-knees.

Diet 3:

Bird of prey diet and pinkie mice with vitamins (VV-13).

Diet 4:

Flamingo chow complete (3/4c), soaked dog food (1/4c), Natural Balance 5% fat (30 grams), and live insects mealworms, waxworms, and crickets (20–30 insects).

Diet 5:

Chopped silversides or smelt, fuzzy or pinkie mice, and meat product mixed with insectivore pellets.

Diet 6:

Nebraska Brand Bird of Prey diet in tablespoon size pieces. Mice, crickets, mealworms, and earthworms were also fed occasionally.

Life Expectancy in the Wild:	Males: 16-20 years	Females: 16-20 years
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Life Expectancy in Captivity:	Males: 22 years	Females: 24 years
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BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity:	Males: Normally 2-3 years but can breed at one	Females: Normally 2-3 years but can breed at one
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Courtship Displays:	First nest construction, then deep bow display, then sitting in nest scrape, then neck-arching followed by copulation
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Nest Site Description:	Very subtle scrape in ground, can be lined or unlined, prefer dry raised areas of sand and dirt.
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Clutch Size, Egg Description:	1-3 eggs with 1 egg being laid 56.52 % of the time and 2 eggs being laid 43.38% of the time. The egg is buff colored with brown splotches and very cryptic.
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Incubation Period:	24-30 days
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Fledgling Period:	Fledge at 42-49 days
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Parental Care:	Both parents feed the chicks
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Chick Development:	Average weight at hatch is 25 grams and they leave the nest at 24 hours. Young chicks are very cryptic and difficult to see.
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CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: When not in breeding season they are gregarious and form flocks

Social Structure in Captivity: Usually kept in a breeding pair

Minimum Group Size: 1.1

Maximum Group Size: Small groups when not breeding

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes **Comments:** Best mixed with arboreal perching birds

Optimal Habitat Size: 33 ft x 10 ft x 6.5 ft and prefer dry, pebbly areas with low vegetation

Management Challenges: They change radically during breeding season and can be aggressive towards keepers and other birds.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Be able to do minimal husbandry during breeding season because of their feisty nature. They will need a space of about three feet around the nest to not be disturbed. For artificial incubation the temperatures are 99.5 with 40-50 % humidity.

REFERENCES:

Animal Care Manual Shorebirds, 2014 AZA

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