

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Gruiformes
Scientific Name: *Anthropoides virgo*

Family: Gruidae
Common Name: Demoiselle Crane

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Monomorphic):



Photo (Chick):



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 [A heat source and shelter are recommended for weather below freezing. Facilities with harsh weather should consider winter holding.](#)

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)

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Captive Dietary Needs:

In human care, they are typically fed a manufactured pellet diet supplemented with feeder insects, fruits, or greens.

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: [Click here to enter text.](#) Females: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: The median life expectancy for both sexes is 14 years of age. 25% of Females: Demoiselle cranes can be expected to live 25 years or older. The oldest bird on record was 51 years.

BREEDING INFORMATION:

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

Courtship Displays: Unison vocalization calls and dancing. The female typically initiates unison calling and the male will pitch lower and longer notes. The male holds his neck vertical with his bill positioned backwards during vocalization.

Nest Site Description: Patchy vegetation to conceal the nest is preferred. Birds will typically look out of the nest while incubating. Eggs are laid on the ground and may be cushioned by thin bedding or small pebbles. Considered a grassland nester.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 2 tan eggs with dark spotting on the air cell

Incubation Period: 27-29 days

Fledgling Period: 55-65 days (the shortest of any crane species)

Parental Care: The females will typically incubate the eggs while the male defends the nest. Juveniles will stay with the parents 8-10 months, or until the next breeding season.

Chick Development: Chicks hatch out precocial and grow rapidly to reach their adult height around 2 months. Juveniles are pale gray and their tufts are short and ashy.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Pairs will separate themselves from other birds for the breeding season. Many birds will flock together for migration and wintering.

Social Structure in Captivity: One pair during breeding season

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Minimum Group Size: One pair

Maximum Group Size: Family groups – it is recommended to pull offspring 2 months before the next breeding season

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:

Varies

Comments:

Cranes are typically housed separately for safety and breeding purposes. Other taxa have been housed with cranes. Adequate space and territory should be considered when housing any species or individuals together.

Optimal Habitat Size: The height minimum for most crane species is recommended to be 8 feet. The exhibit is recommended to be deeper than wide so that the birds have a comfortable space away from viewers.

Management Challenges: Captive-reared crane chicks are susceptible to parasites. Preventative parasite treatment is encouraged.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Demoiselle cranes are listed as Least Concern due to their vast habitat range, an apparent increasing population trend and large population size. In fact, they are the second most numerous species of cranes. However, these birds do face many dangers, which over time could affect their population. Habitat loss is the main threat to Demoiselles. They are hunted for food and sport and are taken as pets in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Suspected of causing damage to crops, they are also frequently shot.

REFERENCES:

[https://ams.aza.org/iweb/upload/Population%20Viability%20Analysis%20\(PVA\)%20Report%20-%202015%20Demoiselle%20Crane%20Animal%20Program-c1f57247.pdf](https://ams.aza.org/iweb/upload/Population%20Viability%20Analysis%20(PVA)%20Report%20-%202015%20Demoiselle%20Crane%20Animal%20Program-c1f57247.pdf)

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<https://www.savingcranes.org/species-field-guide/demoiselle-crane/>

http://www.gruitag.org/uploads/media/Crane,_Demoiselle_-_Yellow_SSP_2013_Draft_Final-94868a92.pdf

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Ellis, David H., Gee, George F, & Mirande, Claire M. editors Cranes: Their Biology, Husbandry, and Conservation

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