

# Species Fact Sheets

**Order:** Gruiformes  
**Scientific Name:** *Anthropoides paradiseus*

**Family:** Gruidae  
**Common Name:** Blue Crane

**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 [Also found in 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 [Blue Cranes are quite cold hardy, but should be given access to an indoor shelter with heat below 32 degrees F and should be locked inside with heat if it gets below zero.](#)

**Heat Tolerance:** To 30° F  To 50° F  To 70° F  To 90° F   
 To 110° F  Other [In extreme heat a shaded area and or mister should be offered.](#)

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

### Captive Dietary Needs:

Blue Cranes should be offered a commercial crane pellet along with live insects such as superworms, mealworms, waxworms and crickets. They can also be given a fruit/greens mix occasionally

**Life Expectancy in the Wild:** Males: There isn't any reliable information Females: There isn't any reliable information on the life

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		on the life span of Blue Cranes in the wild.		span of Blue Cranes in the wild.
<b>Life Expectancy in Captivity:</b>	Males:	Blue Cranes can live well into their 30's in captivity.	Females:	Blue Cranes can live well into their 30's in captivity.

### BREEDING INFORMATION:

<b>Age at Sexual Maturity:</b>	Males:	4 – 5years old	Females:	4 – 5 years old
<b>Courtship Displays:</b>	Blue Cranes have elaborate courtship displays (dances) which consist of bows, jumping, stick/grass tossing and synchronized bugling.			
<b>Nest Site Description:</b>	Nests are a bare spot on the ground often with no nesting material, though sometimes the nest is lined with a small amount of grass.			
<b>Clutch Size, Egg Description:</b>	1 -3 (usually 2) brown speckled eggs.			
<b>Incubation Period:</b>	29 – 32 days		<b>Fledgling Period:</b>	3 – 4 months
<b>Parental Care:</b>	Both parents share the incubation of the eggs as well as the brooding and rearing of the chick(s).			
<b>Chick Development:</b>	Chicks hatch with buff colored down on head and neck. The upper part of the wings, back rump and sides are gray with the throat breast and underside of wings being white. Young are able to fly as young as three months of age.			

### CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

<b>Social Structure in the Wild:</b>	Monogamous pairs, family group until next breeding cycle. Young birds will form large flocks and roost together in shallow water.			
<b>Social Structure in Captivity:</b>	Monogamous pairs, family group until next breeding cycle. Juveniles should be moved from parents before next clutch is laid.			
<b>Minimum Group Size:</b>	One pair		<b>Maximum Group Size:</b>	Adult pair and offspring until next breeding cycle

<b>Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:</b>	Varies	<b>Comments:</b>	Blue Cranes do well with other birds such as waterfowl, guineafowl etc. They have been kept with other taxa with varying degrees of success. Though they have been kept successfully with smaller species of hoofstock, if at all possible they should be housed separately from hoofstock for safety reasons.	
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**Optimal Habitat Size:** Enclosures should be as large as possible. Minimum enclosure size should be 30 ft x 50 ft x 8 ft high. Top netting the enclosure is recommended at this height and must be netted where the enclosure height is below this.

**Management Challenges:** There have been reproductive problems with Blue Cranes, with very few pairs producing chicks in recent years. The reason for this is not fully known but birds being housed with hoofstock may be some of the problem. When pairs do lay and produce chicks they tend to become very aggressive protecting their nest and offspring which can be a challenge for keepers servicing their enclosure. Having another pen in which they can be shifted into is the best way to handle their aggression. If that isn't possible then it is recommended that two keepers service the enclosure together.

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Click here to enter text.

## REFERENCES:

Johnsgard, Paul A (1983) Cranes of the World, Indiana University Press, Bloomington

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

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## COMPLETED BY:

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