

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Ciconiiformes
Scientific Name: *Scopus umbretta*

Family: Scopidae
Common Name: Hamerkop

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 Woodland edges near water bodies.

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 Have observed this species down to 28 F.

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:

Nutritionally supplemented meat diet, nutritionally complete pellet mixed with meat diet, smelt, silversides, chopped capelin, fuzzies, pinkies. Multi-vitamin and calcium supplement.

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

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: Median 9.1 y (max. 24.5 y) Females: Median 5.14 y (max. 23.1 Y)

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BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 2 years Females: 2 years

Courtship Displays: Courtship displays occur in close proximity of nest. One adult often flies at the other with rapid bat-like flight. Copulation occurs on top of the nest or on a nearby perch.

Nest Site Description: Extraordinary, elaborate large stick nest built by both sexes with an enclosed central chamber usually in a fork of tree often overhanging water. They may also build a similar stick nest on a cliff ledge, sand bank, or even on the ground.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 3-6 white eggs, with a smooth matte surface; the eggs can have brownish stains from the nest material and feces.

Incubation Period: 28 to 32 days

Fledgling Period: 44 to 55 days

Parental Care: Male and female both incubate eggs, feed and rear the chicks.

Chick Development: Chicks have gray down and darker on back with a broad blunt bill. They begin developing the distinctive crest within 6 days

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: The species nests solitarily and usually occurs in pairs or in small groups of 8-10 individuals outside of breeding season, sometimes occurring in social groups of up to 50 hamerkops.

Social Structure in Captivity: Often maintained as a pair in captivity, but can be maintained in small family units for 2-4 months after the juveniles fledge. A parent may begin to aggress juveniles prompting them to be removed from their exhibit.

Minimum Group Size: One pair

Maximum Group Size: Up to 50 birds have been observed in the wild. Typically in captivity a pair is maintained.

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Varies **Comments:** Hamerkops can be maintained in a mixed avian species exhibit with a variety of medium to larger softbills, ibis, waterfowl, etc.

Optimal Habitat Size: 80' X 38' X 35'

Management Challenges: During chick rearing, hamerkops may become predatory killing and feeding small passerines to developing chicks.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

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Sexes are monomorphic.

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Elliott, A. 1992. Hamerkop (*Scopus umbretta*). In del Hoya, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D. A. & de Juana, E. (Eds.) (2013). Handbook of Birds of the World Alive. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <http://hbw.com> on 1 April 2014)

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