

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Columbiformes
Scientific Name: *Goura victoria*

Family: Columbidae
Common Name: Victoria Crowned Pigeon

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other Oceania (Indonesia and Papua New Guinea)

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other Lowland Forest including swamp-forest.

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 Sensitive to low temperatures (below 40 Fahrenheit) and must be kept out of the elements or provided with a heat source and shelter.

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:

Commercial softbill, pigeon and/or parrot pellet, mixed fruits, mixed vegetables, seeds and occasionally insects

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

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: 15-20 years but can live up to 41 years Females: 15-20 years but can live up to 32 years

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 15 months Females: 15 months

Courtship Displays: The male courts the female by bowing before her, wagging his fanned tail and "booming". He brings her sticks, which she weaves into a nest.

Nest Site Description: Nest constructed from compacted leaves and sticks.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 1 white egg

Incubation Period: 30 days

Fledgling Period: 30 - 36 days. Parents continue to feed fledglings up to 13 weeks of age.

Parental Care: Sire and dam share incubation, brooding and chick rearing responsibilities and produce crop milk for the chick.

Chick Development: The chicks are altricial. They are almost naked, covered with a filamentous down. Their growth is rapid. In 4 weeks, they are approximately one quarter the size of the adults.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Feeds on the ground in small groups of 2-10 birds and roosts in trees. They move about in flocks during the day and roost together at night. They forage for food on the ground, perching on the low branches of trees only when disturbed or to roost.

Social Structure in Captivity: Victoria Crowned Pigeons should be housed either in pairs or in small flocks.

Minimum Group Size: 2

Maximum Group Size: U.S. Zoos are starting to house Victoria Crowned Pigeons in flocks as they would occur in the wild.

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**Compatible in
Mixed Species Exhibits:**

Yes

Comments:

Victoria Crowned-Pigeons have been successfully housed in mixed species exhibits and with other Columbids including Pied Imperial Pigeons, Nicobar Pigeons, Emerald Doves, Luzon's Bleeding Heart Doves, Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeons, Black-naped fruit doves and Black-chinned fruit doves. They have been housed successfully with various species of waterfowl, passerines, egrets, ibis, parrots and pheasants.

Optimal Habitat Size:

Management Challenges: Potential aggressiveness of breeding pairs towards exhibit mates and humans when housed in a walkthrough aviary. This behavior may be alleviated when they are kept in small flocks.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

The Victoria Crowned-pigeon along with the other crowned pigeon species (*G. cristata* and *G. scheepmakeri*), are the largest living species of pigeon. They are listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species and on CITES Appendix II. It is protected by law in Papua New Guinea.

This species is hunted for both its meat and feathers. Both hunting and loss of its lowland forest habitat are contributing to its decline.

REFERENCES:

Avian rearing resource: <http://www.avianrearingresource.co.uk/species/species-detail.php?frmFamilyID=17&frmSubFamilyID=8&frmSpeciesID=12>

BirdLife International. 2016. *Goura victoria*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016: e.T22691874A93326799. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2016-3.RLTS.T22691874A93326799.en>. Downloaded on 12 February 2017.X

"Handbook of Birds of the World Alive": <http://www.hbw.com/species/victoria-crowned-pigeon-goura-victoria>

Population Analysis & Breeding and Transfer Plan Victoria Crowned Pigeon (Goura victoria) AZA Species Survival Plan® Yellow Program AZA 2016.

"Crowned Pigeons and People" by Josef Lindholm, III:
<https://journals.tdl.org/watchbird/index.php/watchbird/article/download/3313/3297>

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Toronto Zoo Species Profile: <http://www.torontozoo.com/explorethetoo/animaldetails.asp?pg=640>

Photographs provided by Joshua Caraballo, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo

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