

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Charadriiformes
Scientific Name: Himantopus mexicanus

Family: Recurvirostridae
Common Name: Black-necked stilt

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):

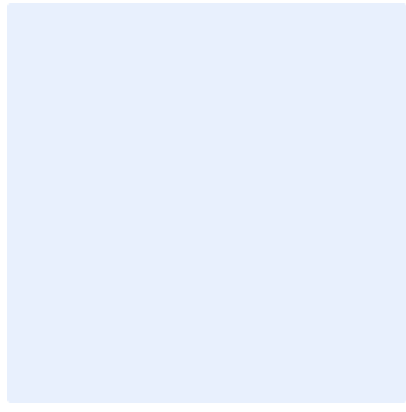


Photo (Female):



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other Seasonally flooded wetlands, lakes, salt lakes, mudflats

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:

Wild diet is mainly aquatic invertebrates: mainly crustaceans, mollusks but also small fish, tadpoles, insects, seeds. Captive diet is krill, fish, insects, commercial chow (usually flamingo)

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: 5 - 10 years Females: 5 - 10 years

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: Up to 26 years Females: Up to 23 years

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BREEDING INFORMATION:

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

Courtship Displays: Female leans forward, stretches neck out. Male circles female, making pecking motions at ground or water.

Nest Site Description: Semi colonial (rarely nest alone). Nests are slight depressions lined with grass and twigs located from 7 to 130 ft. apart, on mud flat close to water's edge.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 3 – 4 brown spotted eggs

Incubation Period: 22 – 26 days

Fledgling Period: 1 month

Parental Care: Both parents incubate. Both parents perform injury display to distract predators from nest and chicks.

Chick Development: Precocial. Often leave nest within 2 days of hatching.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Nesting colonies are rather small - usually comprised of dozens of pairs.

Social Structure in Captivity: Single pairs have reproduced successfully but may do better with multiple pairs.

Minimum Group Size: 2

Maximum Group Size: ?

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes **Comments:** Do well in large mixed species aviaries

Optimal Habitat Size: At least 8' x 8' with water feature

Management Challenges: Identification of parents in large mixed species exhibits. Monitoring foot problems in large mixed species exhibits.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

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REFERENCES:

Murach, Carmen (2011). "AZA North American Regional Studbook Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) 2nd edition.

Black-necked Stilt Species Account - Cornell Lab of Ornithology http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Black-necked_Stilt/id

<http://birds.audubon.org/birds/black-necked-stilt>

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Hamilton, Robert Bruce (1975). "Comparative Behavior of the American Avocet and the Black-necked Stilt (Recurvirostridae)". Ornithological Monographs 17: 1–98.

IUCN 2013. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2013.2. www.iucnredlist.org
Retrieved on 28 February 2014

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