

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Charadriiformes
 Scientific Name: *Vanellus miles*

Family: Charadriidae
 Common Name: Masked Lapwing

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):

NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other New Guinea

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other well adapted to urban interface habitat

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 50F with shelter and to 30F with radiant heat

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:

Primarily insect eaters in the wild. They are opportunistic foragers as well. Captive diets vary at each zoo. Listed below is a diet that used at the Sedgwick County Zoo.

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Gamebird Mix includes:

Finely chopped fruit: apple, grape, banana, melon, sweet potato.

Mazuri Exotic Gamebird pellets

Soaked Mazuri parrot pellets

Mazuri small bird maintenance mini

Chopped romaine lettuce

Chopped hard-boiled egg

Also added to the diet is Nebraska Bird of Prey meat, and mealworms.

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: 12 years Females: 12 years

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: 15-18 years Females: 17-19 years

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 1-2 years Females: 2-3 years

Courtship Displays: Birds pair off and have displays of head bobbing and vocalizations. Pairs are very territorial of their nesting site and typically will reuse the same sites every breeding season.

Nest Site Description: Usually nests in short grass, often near water; nest is depression in the ground, unlined or lined with plant material, pebbles and debris.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 3-4 eggs, which are a yellowish-olive to light brownish-olive in color and pear shaped.

Incubation Period: 28-30 days starts with penultimate egg

Fledgling Period: 6-7 weeks

Parental Care: Both parents incubate and care for the chicks.

Chick Development: Chick has upperparts pale brown speckled buff and mottled black, white hind neck collar, underparts mostly white; young can swim from early age.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: During the non-breeding season, they form small flocks. During the breeding season they pair off to nest.

Social Structure in Captivity: Either single pairs, or single sex groups. Mixed sex groups of juveniles can be kept together for extended periods. Parents generally will tolerate young of year until subsequent clutch is close to hatch at which time parents may

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become aggressive. In the absence of subsequent clutches young may be tolerated for several years

Minimum Group Size: 2

Maximum Group Size: Depends on exhibit space.

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes

Comments: Can be aggressive towards other shorebirds. Can be a great opportunity to create species diversity in lorikeet interactive aviaries

Optimal Habitat Size: The ideal lapwing exhibit will have plenty of open, sandy areas combined with short grass areas. In addition, the lapwing exhibit should have an area of well-drained turf and a gradually deepening pool with running water (Vince, 1996). A few shrubs will provide shade and a sense of security (Holland, 2007).

Management Challenges: Pairs can be territorial during nesting. Angel wing and leg problems during chick rearing are not uncommon and may need to be managed. Bumble foot develops quickly when housed on concrete.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

REFERENCES:

Shorebirds Animal Care Manual October 2013

Piersma, T. and Wiersma, P. (1996). Family Charadriidae (Plovers). Pp. 384-442 in: del Hoyo, J., Elliot, A. & Sargatal, J. eds. (1996). Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol. 3. Hoatzin to Auks. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.

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