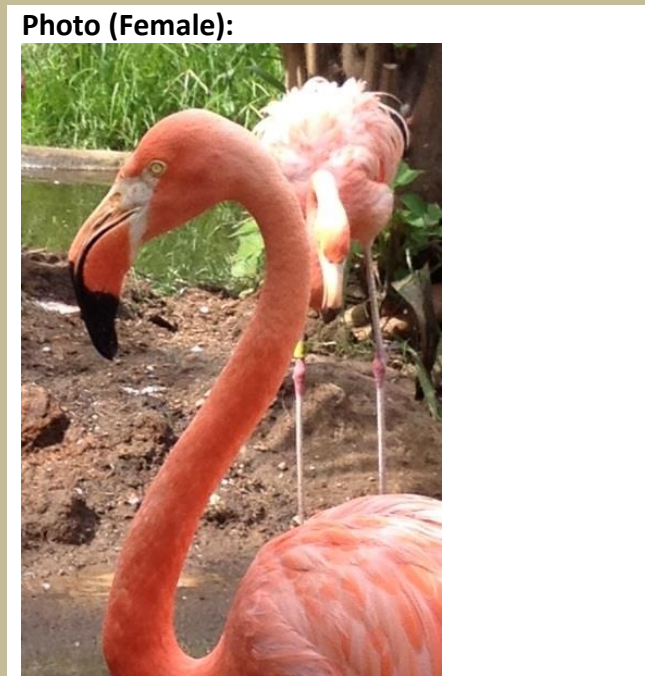


Species Fact Sheets

Order: Phoenicopteriformes
Scientific Name: *Phoenicopus ruber*

Family: Phoenicopteridae
Common Name: Caribbean flamingo

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other Bahamas, Cuba, Yucatan, Bonaire, Venezuela, Colombia, Feral populations in Florida.

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other Coastal mudflats, man-made salt reservoirs, saline lagoons

Circadian Cycle: Diurnal Crepuscular Nocturnal Other
 Birds tend to forage more often throughout the night and into the early morning

Cold Tolerance: To 70° F To 60° F To 50° F To 40° F
 To 30° F To 20° F Other
 These birds can tolerate cold temperatures but it is recommended that they are locked inside when temperatures reach 24°F.

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Heat Tolerance:	To 30° F <input type="checkbox"/>	To 50° F <input type="checkbox"/>	To 70° F <input type="checkbox"/>	To 90° F <input type="checkbox"/>
	To 110° F <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>		
Diet:	Frugivore <input type="checkbox"/>	Carnivore <input type="checkbox"/>	Piscivore <input type="checkbox"/>	Insectivore <input type="checkbox"/>
	Nectivore <input type="checkbox"/>	Omnivore <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Folivore <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Add Below) <input type="checkbox"/>

Captive Dietary Needs:

Birds are typically fed a manufactured zoo diet. Diets used at facilities include; Flamingo Complete and Flamingo Breeder from Mazuri and Flamingo Fare from Reliable Protein Products.

Life Expectancy in the Wild:	Males: unknown	Females: unknown
Life Expectancy in Captivity:	Males: 55-56	Females: 52-53

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity:	Males: 3-6 years	Females: 3-6 years
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Courtship Displays:	Elaborate courtship displays that begin during the early spring months up until nest building. During this time they are very active throughout the day. A breeding flock can display any combination of head-flagging, wing salutes, reverse wing salutes, wing-leg stretches and marching.
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Nest Site Description:	Preferred nest setup is an island containing mud, clay and sand or similar type substrates that can be continually wet through the use of a soaker hose, bubbler or other slow moving water source. Flocks have been known to nest on land where the substrate has been prepared for nest building as well. The nesting area should also be able to dry out once chick hatching begins.
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Clutch Size, Egg Description:	Usually one egg at a time but pairs are known to re clutch.
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Incubation Period:	Approximately 25 days internal pip, 30 days at complete hatch
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Fledgling Period:	Adult flight feathers begin growing around 30 days. Chicks will continue to depend on parents for crop milk through 6 months but are known to start eating pellets on their own within three days of hatch.
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Parental Care:	Both parents participate in incubation and chick rearing.
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Chick Development:	Chicks will start leaving the nest between 1 and 5 days and may return to the nest for brooding and feeding from the parents. They are very active from the beginning and can climb up nest mounts, walk and wade in the water and swim. As chicks become stronger they will start feeding from parents off the nest while standing. They can also be observed picking up small rocks and natural fibers throughout the exhibit,
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sometimes ingesting these items. Chicks will also pick up and eat diet pellets within the first few days of leaving the nest. If hand rearing, it is important to provide space for chicks to exercise.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Extremely social, some flocks can have flocks in the 10s to 100s of thousands.

Social Structure in Captivity: Flamingos are very social. For breeding flocks it is recommended to have a minimum of 20 birds but smaller flocks have been known to breed. See husbandry manual for recommendations on exhibit and water source size.

Minimum Group Size: Recommended 20 individuals with a goal of equal sexes.

Maximum Group Size: See optimal habitat size.

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:

Yes

Comments:

Non-aggressive waterfowl, ibis. It is recommended to use species of birds that would not disrupt breeding behaviors and to provide appropriate separate feeding stations for the other species. See husbandry manual for details.

Optimal Habitat Size: Flamingo husbandry manual recommends exhibit space of 15 FT² per bird at the very least, with a pool large enough to house the whole flock at one time, breeding space should be able to house the entire flock with a recommended size of 10 FT² per bird. As exhibits continue to be evaluated it is suggested that these recommended numbers could be increased where possible, even upwards of 60 FT² per bird.

Management Challenges:

- This species has a history of being inconsistent with breeding behaviors; often nesting seasons will be sporadic, year to year. Some flocks never show interest in breeding, others go through appropriate behaviors but will produce infertile eggs. Providing opportunities to encourage breeding is highly recommended. Some solutions include; separating and reuniting flock members, moving birds to a new exhibit set-up, providing variations in soil content (clay, sand, plant material etc.) for nest building, adding more water to nest sites and providing keeper started nest mounds to stimulate nest building behaviors.
- A challenge facing captive populations is susceptibility to bumble foot. Efforts should be made to limit access to concrete. Providing rubber mats, indoor/outdoor carpeting or other flooring with an uneven texture and cushion can help prevent this condition from progressing.
- Due to the nature of housing these birds in open style exhibits, often times these birds can be susceptible to predators of many varieties, including birds of prey, snakes, raccoons, fox and coyote.
- Typically these birds are flight restricted through feather clipping or pinioning. Due to this process, it is recommended to evaluate the institution's policy on the procedure.

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Caribbean flamingos can be a wonderful addition to a collection. They create great opportunities for staff growth and development through capture and restraint opportunities, breeding challenges and conservation opportunities. Their flamboyant presence also creates an exciting exhibit for guests to visit, any time of year.

REFERENCES:

Flamingo Husbandry Guidelines, Editors: Chris Brown, AZA Ciconiiformes TAG, Dallas Zoo
Catherine King, EAZA Ciconiiformes/Phoenicopteriformes EEP, Rotterdam Zoo

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COMPLETED BY:

Name: Kate Lyngle-Cowand

Date: 7/14/2014