Eurasian Black Vulture

Aegypius monachus

Species Status

IUCN: Near Threatened
ESA Status: Not Listed
CITES: Appendix II
TAG: Raptor TAG
AZA SSP DESIGNATION: Yellow

GEOGRAPHIC REGION:
BIOME:

EXHIBIT DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT

HUSBANDRY AND CARE

SPECIAL EXHIBIT CONSIDERATION	
Outdoor Climate Conditions:	tolerant of extreme temperatures; kept outdoors in low temperatures down to 0°F, and lower if wind break and dry substrate are used by birds; high temperatures over 100°F tolerable if shade is offered; dry environments preferred
Substrate:	varied substrates used outdoors (dirt, grasses, ground cover, varying sized rocks, rocky areas); avoid concrete or similar artificial surfaces indoors to prevent pododermatitis (bumblefoot); matting used indoors, but may not be a good option for some individuals prone to tearing and ingesting inappropriate materials; decomposed granite, peagravel, etc. also used indoors (also danger of ingestion); if straw, shavings, or mulch used indoors, ensure substrates remain dry to prevent aspergillosis
Ideal Carrying Capacity:	multiple pairs or individuals housed together in an exhibit yard during non-breeding season; access to individual areas for nest building recommended prior to the onset of the breeding season (visual and auditory access possible, but separate space required)
Size of Space:	optimal outdoor space 100' x 50' x 20' (L x W x H) covered aviary to allow flight, copulation and nesting; access to a connected, sheltered or indoor area in cold climates, for rare occasions of harsh conditions; smaller spaces possible (12' x 16' x 10' minimum) for well-established pairs; flight-restricted birds held in enclosures of varying sizes
Complexity of Space:	ground perching and multiple levels of hardwood elevated perching, at least 3-6" diameter; ground logs also used for lower perching; multiple levels of sturdy perching for flight-restricted birds
Number of Spaces (exhibit and holding):	individual areas for nesting needed for institutions holding multiple pairs together during non-breeding season
Breeding Environment:	seasonal breeders: onset of season in December-January, nest building in January-March, egg laying in March-April; some pairs nest on ground, but multiple elevated rock ledges or platforms (3.5-4' x 3.5-4') should be offered; nesting material kept in a readily available supply, sticks with diameters of 0.5-1" and length of 1-2' replenished frequently
Enrichment:	sisal rope knots, PVC feeding tubes, large kongs, forage feeder, ring feeder, gourds, grasses, bark, bamboo sticks, feathers
Other:	monitor flight restricted birds in open-top enclosures during windy periods, as they can easily get lift

SPECIES APPEAL

- Well established husbandry
- Cold weather tolerant
- Conservation significance
- Warm weather tolerant

MESSAGING OPPORTUNITIES

- Poaching/illegal take
- Wildlife trade

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MULTI - SPECIES EXHIBIT OPPORTUNITIES

- Vulture, Ruppell's Griffon
- Hoofstock (Various spp.) - Small
- Gazelle, Thomson's
- Gazelle, Slender-Horned
- Vulture, Cape
- Gazelle, Nubian Soemmerring's
- Gazelle, Grant's
- Gazelle, Cuvier's
- Vulture, Hooded
- Vulture, Lappet-Faced
- Guineafowl, Crested
- Vulture, King
- Hornbill, Southern Ground
- Gazelle, Speke's
- Bird (Various spp.) - Crane
- Impala
- Gazelle, Addra
- Guineafowl, Vulturine
- Hornbill, Northern Ground
- Vulture, White-Backed
- Stork, European White

NON - SSP SPECIES THAT COULD BE SUBSTITUTED BY EURASIAN BLACK VULTURE

- Vulture, Griffon
- Eagle, White-Bellied Sea
- Eagle, Martial
- Vulture, Bearded
- Vulture, Oriental White-Backed
- Vulture, White-Headed
- Vulture, Red-Headed

SPECIES BIOLOGY	
Activity pattern:	Diurnal
Potential risk to humans:	Sharp bill or beak, Talons
Diet	whole animal diet preferred (rats, chicks, quail, mice, rabbits, etc.); commercially prepared meat diet sometimes offered; oxtails, knuckle bones, etc. offered periodically; fast days (1x per week) during the warmer months of the year
Health and Veterinary	prone to aspergillosis, West Nile virus, and balisascaris
Social	may be managed in single pairs or in multiple pairs during the non-breeding season; pairs establish nesting territories with the onset of breeding season
OFFSPRING HOUSING and REPRODUCTION	
Number of Offspring per Reproductive Event:	single offspring
General Offspring with Parent:	typically until the onset of next breeding season
General Offspring Holding:	institutions expected to hold for 1 to 2 years
Weaning, Fledging or Metamorphosis:	100 days, sometimes longer in human care
Gestation or Incubation:	53 to 55 days

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SSP SUSTAINABILITY PROFILE

Current Size: 54 (24.30.0) at 23 institutions (0 non-AZA)

SSP Coordinator: Mary Jo Willis (mjwillis@denverzoo.org)

CURRENT POPULATION SUMMARY

The Raptor TAG has set a target population size of 70 animals in the Eurasian Black Vulture SSP population. The managed population has been increasing (**λ** = 1.01) historically, and has retained 93.05% of its founding gene diversity.

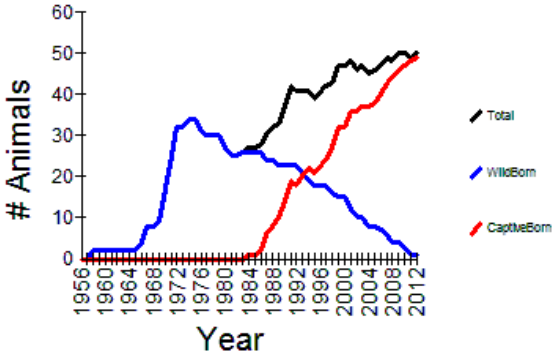

Figure 1: Census of managed Eurasian black vultures in the AZA population over time, by origin. Breeding and Transfer Plan 2013

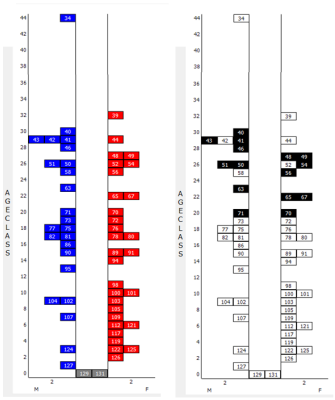

Figure 2: Age pyramid of the AZA Eurasian black vulture population. Breeding and Transfer Plan 2016

PROJECTED POPULATION SUMMARY

Population Viability Analysis has not yet been conducted for this population.

No Image available

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CHALLENGES TO SSP POPULATION SUSTAINABILITY

CHALLENGE	GOAL	ACTION	NEED
Demographics	Promote stable recruitment	Implement recommended husbandry protocols or exhibit designs	Individuals in this population have had historically low reproductive success, and have typically bred many years after the onset of the sexual maturity age observed in their wild counterparts. As a result, the population is becoming severely skewed in its age distribution. Increased reproduction and recruitment is critical. See expanded discussion below.
			While parent-rearing is preferred to instill typical adult behaviors, hand-rearing is sometimes necessary. Institutions are asked to use puppet or ghost-rearing methods, and are encouraged to consult the SSP Coordinator with questions. Additionally, post-rearing socialization needs to be considered for the offspring not raised by parents. Visual and auditory access to breeding pairs may be used to familiarize separated offspring with typical adult behaviors.
	Stabilize age distribution	Identify institutions to support importation	Non-releasable individuals from South Korean rehabilitation facilities may be able to imported, following the revision of South Korean export permitting requirements. If a consortium of institutions is interested in importing this species, the SSP Coordinator has contacts in South Korea and is willing to coordinate the importation.
Reproduction	Increase offspring survivorship	Artificially incubate and attempt return to parents or cross-foster	This population has exhibited continued low production despite high number of recommended pairs. While the number of hatches is increasing, egg breakage during parent incubation remains a major concern. The SSP recommends artificial incubation for all eggs from pairs with histories of egg breakage. Dummy eggs should be placed under incubating parents and eggs should typically be returned to parents between the chick's internal pip and 24 hours post-hatch. Contact the SSP with any questions.

REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES AVAILABLE

- Artificial incubation
- Artificial insemination
- Egg sexing

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

- Development of a formalized post rearing socialization program.

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ACQUISITIONS AND TRANSFERS

IMPORTS, EXPORTS AND REINTRODUCTIONS	
Imports	One import of a wild caught, injured, female vulture that was found at fledging in Mongolia was completed in 2012. There are no further opportunities for imports at this time.
Reintroduction	Project I Grands Causses Southern France resulted in the establishment of a small breeding population; as of 2006 16 breeding pairs.
Exports	There are no plans to export at this time.

CHALLENGES TO ACQUISITIONS AND TRANSFERS	
Logistical	Typical logistical considerations for international imports.
Regulatory	Airline considerations and transit country considerations related to an Avian Flu restrictions can be challenging.