

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Han
Scientific Name: Sagittarius serpentarius

Family: Sagittariidae
Common Name: Secretarybird

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

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:

Adults: Mice, carnivore

Adults with chicks: Fuzzies and skinned mice are offered, then gradually introduce fur on mice

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

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: ~20+ years Females: ~20+ years

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BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 3- 4 Years Females: 3-4 years

Courtship Displays: Wild: Aerial-Increase in soaring and calling above the nest area, at nest: repeated swooping pendulum displays, and sometimes may roll over and present the feet. Terrestrial- the canopy of a tree is trampled, then sticks and stems are added to form the nest. A platform that is 1-1.5m in diameter and can be 30-50cm deep is constructed with grasses being the finishing touches to line the nest. Copulation takes place on the ground.
 Captivity: repeated swooping pendulum displays on nest, chirping, manipulation of nest material Copulation takes place on the ground.

Nest Site Description: Wild: Canopy of trees usually Acacia sp.
 Captive: Flighted birds-“Hollowed out” Brazilian Pepper Tree Schinus terebinthifolius or something similar that is strong enough to support the weight of the nest. Birds that are pinioned have nested on the ground and used various types of material.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: 2-3(4) 68-92mm x 51-65mm white but, become deeply stained through incubation

Incubation Period: 42-44 days Incubation starts at the first egg with a 2-4 day interval

Fledgling Period: Wild: ~65-106 days
 Captive: ~87 days or earlier with larger clutches

Parental Care: 42-44 days Incubation starts at the first egg with a 2-4 day interval

Chick Development: Chicks are altricial are cared for by both parents. Food is brought to the nest 3-5 times a day and regurgitated into the bottom of the nest. During the first few weeks little water is brought to the nest, and dribbled into the chicks mouth, but after a few weeks as food sizes increase more water is brought up to the nest.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Mate for life

Social Structure in Captivity: Mate for life

Minimum Group Size: 1

Maximum Group Size: 2 or parents with sibs or clutch mates when weaned.

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes

Comments:

Avian: Storks, Ibis, Kori Bustards, Spoonbill, Marabou Stork guinea fowl, waterfowl
 Mammals: Okapi

Optimal Habitat Size: 60’x62’x15’

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Management Challenges: Aggressiveness challenges.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Handrearing Protocols available upon request.
Parentrearing Diet Protocol available upon request.

REFERENCES:

<http://www.hbw.com/species/secretarybird-sagittarius-serpentarius>

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