



# Common Name

## Marabou Stork

**Scientific Name** *Leptoptilos cru*

FAMILY: Ciconiidae

ORDER: Ciconiiforme

AZA MANEGMENT: Yellow

### GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

- EUROPE
- ASIA
- NORTH AMERICA
- NEOTROPICAL
- AFRICA
- AUSTRALIA
- OTHER

### HABITAT

- FOREST
- DESERT
- GRASSLAND
- COASTAL
- RIVERINE
- MONTANE
- OTHER

Additional information here if needed.

### CIRCADIAN CYCLE

- DIURNAL



### TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE



From 40 ° F to 110 ° F



### DIET

- FRUGIVORE
- CARNIVORE
- PISCIVORE
- INSECTIVORE
- NECTIVORE
- OMNIVORE
- FOLIVORE
- OTHER

Captive Dietary Needs:

In the wild, Marabou storks will consume a wide variety of animal matter, including carrion, fish, insects, small rodents and reptiles. In captivity their diet should include a variety of items including a ground meat product (i.e. beef or horse), rodents and fish. Some individuals might show a preference for one item or another, so care should be taken to ensure that they receive the proper variety of items.

When chicks are present, Marabous will regurgitate items



### LIFE EXPECTANCY

Median Life Expectancy

Maximum Longevity

Within AZA 14.6

In the Wild Unknown



Within AZA 8.9

In the Wild Unknown



CREPUSCULAR

NOCTURNAL

OTHER

# BREEDING INFORMATION



## AGE AT SEXUAL MATURITY



Males 3-5



Females 3-5

**Incubation period:** 28 days

**Fledgling Period:** 95-115 days



## CLUTCH SIZE, & EGG DESCRIPTION



Clutch size is usually 1-3, but clutches as large as 5 are recorded in the literature. The eggs are large and chalky white.



## COURTSHIP DISPLAYS

Males establish a territory, build the nest and then wait to be approached by other birds. When approached, they respond aggressively. Females will react submissively and, if a pair bond is to be established, the male will eventually accept her. There are a number of ritualized courtship displays



## NEST SITE DESCRIPTION

Nests are a large structure of sticks. Wild birds nest in trees, or occasionally on cliffs. In captivity, Marabous have nested in a variety of locations, including on the ground, nest platforms and on top of deadfall



## CHICK DEVELOPMENT

Chicks are altricial, but their eyes are open and they should be very vocal from day one. By the end of the first day, the chick should be able to pick at and consume food presented to it. By the third day, they should be



## PARENTAL CARE

Once an egg is laid, both parents will incubate the eggs. After the 28 day incubation period, both parents will feed the chick(s) by

# CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION



## SOCIAL STRUCTURE

**Wild:** Marabous will forage alone but are more often seen in groups. They will congregate in large numbers at food sources (such as dumps, abattoirs and  
**Captivity:** Marabous have been kept in a variety of groupings, including singly, pairs,



## MIXED SPECIES EXHIBITS

Compatible in mixed species exhibits?  YES

NO

Comments:



## OPTIMAL HABITAT SIZE

Marabous have been kept with a variety of bird and mammal species. However, marabous can be aggressive to smaller species (such as waterfowl).

**all-male groups and large mixed-sex groups**

**Minimum Group Size: One**

**Maximum Group Size: Exhibit Size dependint**

Care should be taken when mixing this species with large hoofed stock. Some species (zebra, for example) can be very aggressive and injuries and death have resulted from hoofed stock aggression towards Marabou Storks. For this reason, housing

### **MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES**

Because of the inherently aggressive nature of Marabou courtship, female mortality due to male aggression (especially during breeding season) is the major issue facing the population right now, leading to a sex ratio significantly skewed towards males. Institutions housing this species must carefully watch for mate aggression and should have space available to separate pairs if aggression begins to escalate. Great care must be taken during pair and group introductions as this can be a particularly stressful time and some level of aggression is to be expected while the newly introduced birds work out where they fit into the social hierarchy. Marabou breeding season is typically during the winter months, with more than 63% of hatches occurring during February, March, and April. Since marabou storks are also cold-sensitive and are often housed in barns during the winter months in northern institutions, they must be closely monitored for signs of aggression at these times

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

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## REFERENCES

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Hancock, Kushlan and Kahl (1992) *Storks, Ibises and Spoonbills of the World*. Academic Press, London.

Del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A. & Sargatal, J. eds (1992) *Handbook of the Birds of the World*. Vol. 1. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona.



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