



Common Name

Black-necked stilt

Scientific Name: *Himantopus mexicanus*

FAMILY: Recurvirostridae

ORDER: Charadriiformes

AZA MANAGEMENT: Signature

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

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

HABITAT

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

Seasonally flooded wetlands, lakes, salt lakes, mudflats

CIRCADIAN CYCLE

- DIURNAL
- CREPUSCULAR
- NOCTURNAL
- OTHER



TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE



From °F to °F

DIET

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

Captive dietary needs: Wild diet is mainly aquatic invertebrates: mainly crustaceans, mollusks but also small fish, tadpoles, insects, seeds. Captive diet is krill, fish, insects, commercial chow (usually flamingo)

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Median Life Expectancy	Maximum Longevity
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Within AZA Up to 26 years (Average)

In the Wild 5-10 years (Average)



Within AZA Up to 23 years (Average)

In the Wild 5-10 years (Average)



BREEDING INFORMATION



AGE AT SEXUAL MATURITY



Males 2 Years



Females 2 years

Incubation period: 22 – 26 days

Fledgling Period: 1 month



CLUTCH SIZE, & EGG DESCRIPTION



3 – 4 brown spotted eggs



COURTSHIP DISPLAYS

Female leans forward, stretches neck out. Male circles female, making pecking motions at ground or water



NEST SITE DESCRIPTION

Semi colonial (rarely nest alone). Nests are slight depressions lined with grass and twigs located from 7 to 130' ±. apart, on mud flat close to water's edge.



CHICK DEVELOPMENT

Precocial. Often leave nest within 2 days of hatching.



PARENTAL CARE

Both parents incubate. Both parents perform injury display to distract predators from nest and chicks.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION



SOCIAL STRUCTURE

In the wild: Nesting colonies are rather small - usually comprised of dozens of pairs.

In Captivity: Single pairs have reproduced successfully but may do better with multiple pairs.

Minimum Group Size: 2

Maximum Group Size: ?



MIXED SPECIES EXHIBITS

Compatible in mixed species exhibits? YES

NO

Comments: Do well in large mixed species aviaries



OPTIMAL HABITAT SIZE

At least 8' x 8' with water feature



MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Identification of parents in large mixed species exhibits.
Monitoring foot problems in large mixed species exhibits.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

N/A

REFERENCES

Murach, Carmen (2011). "AZA North American Regional Studbook Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) 2nd edition.

[Black-necked Stilt Species Account - Cornell Lab of Ornithology](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Blacknecked_Stilt/id)
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Hamilton, Robert Bruce (1975). "Comparative Behavior of the American Avocet and the Black-necked Stilt (*Recurvirostridae*)". *Ornithological Monographs* 17: 1–98.

IUCN 2013. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2013.2. www.iucnredlist.org Retrieved on 28 February 2014

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