



Rhinoceros Hornbill

Buceros rhinoceros

FAMILY: Bucerotidae

ORDER: Bucerotiformes

AZA MANAGEMENT: Signature

GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

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

HABITAT

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

CIRCADIAN CYCLE

- DIURNAL
- CREPUSCULAR
- NOCTURNAL
- OTHER



TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE



From 50° F to 90° F

Heat should be offered if temps drop below 40 degrees. Bird can tolerate heat up to 90 degrees. Shade should be offered and sprinklers/showers can be used to help the bird cool down if outdoors during extreme heat.

DIET

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

Mainly a wide variety of fruits with some protein items. During breeding, the birds especially like figs or fig paste, banana, avocado, and other soft fruits to use in the mudding of the nest cavity opening. Protein needs increase during breeding season and many institutions offer increased insects or rodents seasonally. Commercially made grains such as dog food or soft bill pellets are often added as a nutritionally whole diet component.

LIFE EXPECTANCY

	Median Life Expectancy	Maximum Longevity	
Within AZA	X	40 years	♂
In the Wild	X	30 years	
Within AZA	X	40 years	♀
In the Wild	X	30 years	

BREEDING INFORMATION

AGE AT SEXUAL MATURITY



Males: 5-6 years



Females: 5-6 years

Incubation period: 37-45 days

Fledgling Period: approximately 80 days



CLUTCH SIZE, & EGG DESCRIPTION



1-2 eggs hatch after 37-45 days incubation period. The female emerges from the nest after 40-50 days after hatch and chicks fledge at about 80 days of age.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION



SOCIAL STRUCTURE

In the wild: Live in breeding pairs or groups of juveniles.

Within AZA: Kept as breeding pair or individually.

Minimum Group Size: One individual

Maximum Group Size: Pair with juvenile offspring



COURTSHIP DISPLAYS

Courtship includes nest inspection, food offerings, regurgitation, preening, and posturing.



NEST SITE DESCRIPTION

Cavities are natural holes in trees 9-15m above ground. The entrance is a narrow slit just wide enough for the female to enter. The female seals the cavity entrance from the inside so only a small hole remains for the male to offer food throughout nesting period.



CHICK DEVELOPMENT

Chicks hatch inside the nest cavity with no feathers and their eyes closed. Their eyes open after about 10 days, but their feathers develop much slower. Feathers are fully formed by the time the chick leaves the nest at about 80 days of age.

PARENTAL CARE

Chicks are completely dependent on the sire to provide food in the nesting cavity. The sire will regurgitate whole pieces and pass them into the nest cavity for the dam and the chicks. After fledging, chicks will stay close to the nest, still fed by the parents. Once they can fly reasonably well, the chicks join the parents on foraging trips for food.



MIXED SPECIES EXHIBITS

Compatible in mixed species exhibits? YES

NO

Comments: Not exhibited in mixed species exhibits because of aggression from rhinoceros hornbills and their tendency to hunt small birds or mammals.



OPTIMAL HABITAT SIZE

The enclosure should be at least 60ft in length, 15ft wide and at least 12ft high. A variety of perching should be offered to facilitate flights and sunning. Cover should be offered as well as plantings for a variety of perches and shade.



MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Breeding of captive bred birds has been a challenge. As aging wild caught population is lost to attrition, breeding success of the overall population is decreased. With a small population size, pairs are not always

compatible and mate choice is not often an option. This slows the process of pairing birds and can result in frustrating transfers between institutions. In addition, being a large species, management is limited by space availability.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

IUCN - Near Threatened, CITES Appendix II

REFERENCES

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Bonney, R., Podulka, S., Rohrbaugh, Jr., R. (Eds.) (2001) The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Handbook of Bird Biology, Second Edition. New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

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<http://www.cites.org/en/resources/species.html>

Male photo credit Dr. Roy Winkelman. Female photo credit Karl Lehman

COMPLETED BY:

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Chicks are
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