



# Common Name

## Nicobar Pigeon

**Scientific Name** *Caloenas nicobarica*

FAMILY: Columbidae

ORDER: Columbiformes

AZA MANEGMENT: Signature SSP

### GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

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

### HABITAT

- FOREST Subtropical and tropical moist lowland and mangrove forests
- DESERT
- GRASSLAND
- COASTAL
- RIVERINE
- MONTANE
- OTHER

### CIRCADIAN CYCLE

- DIURNAL
- CREPUSCULAR
- NOCTURNAL
- OTHER

### TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE



From 50° F to 90° F

Heat should be provided when temperature is below 50-5 Fahrenheit Sprinklers or spray baths should be made avai temperatures are 90 or above.

### DIET

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

Commercial softbill, pigeon and/or parrot pellet, mixed fruits, mixed vegetables, seeds and occasionally insects

### LIFE EXPECTANCY

Median Life Expectancy	Maximum Longevity
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Within AZA 15 years but can live upwards of 34 years

In the Wild 8-12 years

Within AZA 11 years but can live upwards of 32 years

In the Wild 8-12 years

# BREEDING INFORMATION



## AGE AT SEXUAL MATURITY



12 months



12 months

**Incubation period: 30 days**

**Fledgling Period: 30 days\***



## CLUTCH SIZE, & EGG DESCRIPTION



Average clutch consists of one elliptical, faintly blue-tinged white egg



## COURTSHIP DISPLAYS

Males perform a cooing and bowing display with their neck plumage erected.



## NEST SITE DESCRIPTION

In the wild and in captivity, the nest is a loose platform of at a height of up to 12 meters in disturbed sites. Several r low as 1.5 – 2 meters from the ground in a walkthrough a



## CHICK DEVELOPMENT

Chicks are nearly naked when hatched and are brooded a  
\*The chicks are almost independent at 30 days but may r



## PARENTAL CARE

Both parents share incubation and chick rearing duties an

# CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION



## SOCIAL STRUCTURE

**In the Wild:** This species forms monogamous pairs. They move about in flocks during the day and roost together at night. They are nomadic and commute from island to island in flocks of up to 85 birds, to find food. They are communal nesters.

**In Captivity:** They can be kept in pairs in a smaller aviary or multiple pairs in a larger aviary. In addition, they can be kept in single sex flocks.

**Minimum Group Size: 1-2 pairs**

**Maximum Group Size: Depending on each individuals' temperament, multiple pairs can be**



## MIXED SPECIES EXHIBITS

**Compatible in mixed species exhibits?**

YES

NO



## OPTIMAL HABITAT SIZE

We currently 2.7.1 birds in a large free flight, mixed species aviary measuring approximately 20,000 square feet and ranging in height from 35 – 60 feet. We have housed single birds and pairs in much smaller enclosures (6' wide X 15' deep X 8'high



## MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Their nests can be very flimsy and a strong wind or storm could blow the nest with eggs or chicks to the ground. Some egg predation can occur depending on the species with which they are housed. Wild rats and snakes have been known to predate eggs and chicks.

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Nicobar Pigeons are found on the small islands and coastal regions from the Nicobar Islands, east through the Maldives Archipelago, to the Solomons and Palau. Females are slightly smaller than males; they have a smaller bill knob, shorter hackles and browner underparts. Immature birds have a black tail and lack almost all iridescence. There is hardly any variation across the birds' wide range. Some DNA studies have confirmed that the *Caloenas* taxa represent the closest relatives to the extinct Dodo. This species is classified as Near Threatened (NT) on the IUCN Red List and protected under CITES Appendix 1 because throughout its wide range it is thought to be declining as a result of capture for food and trade, habitat destruction and predation by introduced mammals.

## REFERENCES

Handbook of Birds of the World Alive - <http://www.hbw.com/species/nicobar-pigeon-caloenas-nicobarica>  
Pratt, T.K. & Beehler, B.M. (2015): Birds of New Guinea. Second edition. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.  
Population Analysis & Breeding and Transfer Plan Nicobar Pigeon (*Caloenas nicobarica*) AZA Species Survival Plan® Yellow Program  
WAZA Website: <http://www.waza.org/en/zoo/select-a-region/asia/birds/doves-and-pigeonscolumbiformes/caloenas-nicobarica>  
The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/22690974/0>  
Photographs provided by Joshua Caraballo, Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo

## COMPLETED BY:

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Date: 1/8/2017

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twigs, placed as low as two meters off the ground in undisturbed sites or just below the canopy. Nests of conspecifics may be built in a single tree. In captivity, successful nests have been found as low as 1 meter and as high as 4-5 meters.

and fed by the sire and dam. After approximately 10 days, the chicks' feathers begin to grow in. They remain on or near the nest for weeks after where they continue to be fed by the parents.

and produce crop milk for the chick.

Comments: This species does well in various mixed exhibits however there can be aggression either towards or from other species of Columbids. We had to remove a female Mauritius Pink Pigeon from an enclosure when she became aggressive towards a pair of nesting Nicobar Pigeons. We have successfully housed Luzon's Bleeding Heart Doves, Purple-tailed Imperial Pigeons, Pied Imperial Pigeons, Black-naped fruit doves and Black-chinned fruit doves with Nicobar Pigeons in large free flight aviaries.

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