



## African spoonbill

***Platalea alba***

FAMILY: Threskiornithidae

ORDER: Ciconiiformes

AZA MANAGEMENT: Signature

### GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

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

### HABITAT

- FOREST Lakes, marshes, and reservoirs of inland waters.
- DESERT
- GRASSLAND
- COASTAL
- RIVERINE
- MONTANE
- OTHER

### CIRCADIAN CYCLE

- DIURNAL



### TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE





From °40 F to °90 F

### DIET

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

**Captive Dietary Needs:** Flamingo Food 50-75 gm/day  
 Flamingo Breeder Food 50-75 gm/day Fish Mix  
 (Capelin/Lake Smelt, Silversides) 2 oz Bird of Prey 1 oz 1  
 Adult mouse .8 oz Krill .5 oz Crickets / Mealworms ad lib to  
 whole flock

### LIFE EXPECTANCY

	Median Life Expectancy	Maximum Longevity	
Within AZA	29 (studbook)	X	
In the Wild	X	X	
Within AZA	29 (studbook)	X	
In the Wild	X	X	

CREPUSCULAR

NOCTURNAL

OTHER

# BREEDING INFORMATION



## AGE AT SEXUAL MATURITY



Males: 3 years – males have longer beaks.



Females: : 3 years – females have shorter beaks.

Incubation period: 22–24 days

Fledgling Period: 45-50 days



## CLUTCH SIZE, & EGG DESCRIPTION

3-4 eggs, white eggs with brownish-red spots.



## COURTSHIP DISPLAYS

Allopreening, nest building



## NEST SITE DESCRIPTION

Sticks, reeds, grasses



## CHICK DEVELOPMENT

Chicks hatch with a fluffy white down and they develop and gain weight quickly, fledging between 45-50 days. Juveniles have dark eyes that turn yellow by age 3.



## PARENTAL CARE

Chicks beg quite often. Both parents incubate, feed and brood.

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# CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION



## SOCIAL STRUCTURE

In the Wild: Colonial

Within AZA: Colonial nesting, males can get



## MIXED SPECIES EXHIBITS

Compatible in mixed species exhibits?

YES

NO

Have been housed in mixed flighted aviaries and with flamingos, storks and cranes.



## OPTIMAL HABITAT SIZE

Outside habitat can be anywhere from 100' by 100' (pinioned birds) and 15' in height minimum (flighted birds). Offer birds nesting platforms that are 3-4' off the ground. Pool for foraging and bathing. Mud wallows are very entertaining for

territorial. Not always monogamous.

spoonbills.

**Minimum Group Size:** Can have one pair / breeding is unlikely

**Maximum Group Size:** 12 or more birds depending on exhibit size; larger flocks have a tendency to be more aggressive during breeding.



## MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Breeding is more successful in large groups, chicks become impacted easily, and they are very difficult to hand-rear.

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

N/A

## REFERENCES

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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