



# Hamerkop

**Scientific Name** *Scopus umbretta*  
 FAMILY: Scopidae  
 ORDER: Ciconiiformes  
 AZA MANEGMENT: Yellow

## GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

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

## HABITAT

- FOREST Woodland edges near water bodies.
- DESERT
- GRASSLAND
- COASTAL
- RIVERINE
- MONTANE
- OTHER

## CIRCADIAN CYCLE

- DIURNAL Additional information here

## TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE



From 30° F to 110° F

Have observed this species down to 28 F.

## DIET

- 6
- FRUGIVORE
  - CARNIVORE
  - PISCIVORE
  - INSECTIVORE
  - NECTIVORE
  - OMNIVORE
  - FOLIVORE
  - OTHER

Captive Dietary Needs: Nutritionally supplemented meat diet, nutritionally complete pellet mixed with meat diet, smelt, silversides, chopped capelin, fuzzies, pinkies. Multi-vitamin and calcium supplement

## LIFE EXPECTANCY

	Median Life Expectancy	Maximum Longevity	
Within AZA	9.1 y	24.5 y	♂
In the Wild	Unknown	Unknown	

Within AZA	5.14 y	23.1 y	♀
In the Wild	Unknown	Unknown	

if needed.

CREPUSCULAR

NOCTURNAL

OTHER

# BREEDING INFORMATION



## AGE AT SEXUAL MATURITY



Males 2 years



Females 2 years

**Incubation period: 28 to 32 days**

**Fledgling Period: 44 to 55 days**



## CLUTCH SIZE, & EGG DESCRIPTION



3-6 white eggs, with a smooth matte surface; the eggs can have brownish stains from the nest material and feces.



## COURTSHIP DISPLAYS

Courtship displays occur in close proximity of nest. One adult often flies at the other with rapid bat-like flight. Copulation occurs on top of the nest or on a nearby perch.



## NEST SITE DESCRIPTION

Extraordinary, elaborate large stick nest built by both sexes with an enclosed central chamber usually in a fork of tree often overhanging water. They may also build a similar stick nest on a cliff ledge, sand bank, or even on the ground.



## CHICK DEVELOPMENT

Chicks have gray down and darker on back with a broad blunt bill. They begin developing the distinctive crest within 6 days



## PARENTAL CARE

Male and female both incubate eggs, feed and rear the chicks.

# CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION



## SOCIAL STRUCTURE

**Social Structure in the Wild:** The species nests solitarily and usually occurs in pairs or in small groups of 8-10 individuals outside of breeding season, sometimes occurring in social groups of up to 50 hamerkops

**Social Structure in Captivity:** Often maintained as a pair in captivity, but can be maintained in small family units for 2-4 months after the juveniles fledge. A parent may begin to aggress juveniles prompting them to be removed from their exhibit.



## MIXED SPECIES EXHIBITS

Compatible in mixed species exhibits?

YES

NO

**Comments:** Varies. Hamerkops can be maintained in a mixed avian species exhibit with a variety of medium to larger softbills, ibis, waterfowl, etc.



## OPTIMAL HABITAT SIZE

80' X 38' X 35'



## MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

During chick rearing, hamerkops may become predatory killing and feeding small passerines to developing chicks.

**Minimum Group Size:** One pair

**Maximum Group Size:** Up to 50 birds have been observed in the wild. Typically in captivity a pair is maintained.

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Sexes are monomorphic.

## REFERENCES

BirdLife International 2012. Scopus umbretta. In: IUCN 2013. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2013.2. [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org). Downloaded on 01 April 2014

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