**NATURAL HISTORY:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Range:</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>Asia</th>
<th>North America</th>
<th>Neotropical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Click here to enter text.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat:</th>
<th>Forest</th>
<th>Desert</th>
<th>Grassland</th>
<th>Coastal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Riverine</td>
<td>Montane</td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Woodland edges near water bodies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circadian Cycle:</th>
<th>Diurnal</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Crepuscular</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Nocturnal</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Click here to enter text.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Cold Tolerance: | To 70° F | ☐ | To 60° F | ☐ | To 50° F | ☐ | To 40° F | ☐ |
|                 | To 30° F | X | To 20° F | ☐ | Other | Have observed this species down to 28 F. |

| Heat Tolerance: | To 30° F | ☐ | To 50° F | ☐ | To 70° F | ☐ | To 90° F | ☐ |
|                 | To 110° F | X | Other | Click here to enter text. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diet:</th>
<th>Frugivore</th>
<th>☐</th>
<th>Carnivore</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Piscivore</th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Insectivore</th>
<th>☐</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nectivore</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Omnivore</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Folivore</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>Other (Add Below)</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 in the Wild:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males: Unknown</th>
<th>Females: Unknown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Life Expectancy in Captivity:**

|          | Males: Median 9.1 y (max. 24.5 y) | Females: Median 5.14 y (max. 23.1 Y) |
BREEDING INFORMATION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age at Sexual Maturity:</th>
<th>Males: 2 years</th>
<th>Females: 2 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courtship Displays:</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nest Site Description:</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clutch Size, Egg Description:</td>
<td>3-6 white eggs, with a smooth matte surface; the eggs can have brownish stains from the nest material and feces.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incubation Period:</td>
<td>28 to 32 days</td>
<td>Fledgling Period: 44 to 55 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental Care:</td>
<td>Male and female both incubate eggs, feed and rear the chicks.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chick Development:</td>
<td>Chicks have gray down and darker on back with a broad blunt bill. They begin developing the distinctive crest within 6 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

| 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. |

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. |

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Varies | Comments: 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. |
Sexes are monomorphic.

REFERENCES:


COMPLETED BY:

Name: John Azua; Curator of Birds; AZA Hamerkop SSP Coordinator; Denver Zoo

Date: 4/1/2014