**Order:** Passeriformes  
**Scientific Name:** Lamprotornis iris  
**Family:** Sturnidae  
**Common Name:** Emerald Starling

**AZA Management:**  
- ☐ Green  
- ☒ Yellow  
- ☐ Red  
- ☐ None

**Photo (Male):**

**Photo (Female):**

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**NATURAL HISTORY:**

**Geographic Range:**  
- Europe ☐  
- Asia ☐  
- North America ☐  
- Africa ☒  
- Australia ☐  
- Other Click here to enter text.

**Habitat:**  
- Forest ☐  
- Desert ☐  
- Grassland ☒  
- Coastal ☐  
- Riverine ☐  
- Montane ☐  
- Other  
  - Wooded Savannah, Forest edge, Agricultural areas

**Circadian Cycle:**  
- Diurnal ☒  
- Crepuscular ☐  
- Nocturnal ☐  
- Other Click here to enter text.

**Cold Tolerance:**  
- To 70° F ☐  
- To 60° F ☐  
- To 50° F ☐  
- To 40° F ☒  
- To 30° F ☐  
- To 20° F ☐  
- Other Click here to enter text.

**Heat Tolerance:**  
- To 30° F ☐  
- To 50° F ☐  
- To 70° F ☐  
- To 90° F ☒  
- To 110° F ☐  
- Other Click here to enter text.

**Diet:**  
- Frugivore ☒  
- Carnivore ☒  
- Piscivore ☐  
- Insectivore ☒  
- Nectivore ☐  
- Omnivore ☐  
- Folivore ☐  
- Other (Add Below) ☐

**Captive Dietary Needs:**  
Starlings are omnivorous birds and are susceptible to iron-storage disease (hemochromatosis). Their diet typically consists of a mixture of prepared low-iron pellets, insects, fruit, vegetables and a protein source, such as hard-boiled egg or meat. Meat protein and insects are particularly important during breeding season and chick rearing.

**Life Expectancy in the Wild:**  
- Males: Click here to enter text.  
- Females: Click here to enter text.

**Life Expectancy in Captivity:**  
- Males: Avg 7 yrs, up to 25 yrs  
- Females: Avg 7 yrs, up to 25 yrs
### BREEDING INFORMATION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age at Sexual Maturity:</th>
<th>Males: &lt; 1 year</th>
<th>Females: &lt; 1 year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Courtship Displays:** Courtship is not well documented. It is thought that passing green vegetation back and forth is part of their courtship displays as the behavior’s occurrence increases near breeding season.

**Nest Site Description:** Tree hole cavity lined with both dry and green vegetation. Will nest in boxes.

**Clutch Size, Egg Description:** 3-4 pale blue eggs with red-brown blotches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incubation Period:</th>
<th>14 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fledgling Period:</strong></td>
<td>21 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parental Care:** Female incubates eggs, both parents feed chicks, familial helpers have been documented feeding chicks

**Chick Development:** Fledge at 21 days, fed by parents for around 2 additional weeks post-fledge

### CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

**Social Structure in the Wild:** Flocks of up to 100 documented, may be cooperative breeders with non-parent birds feeding chicks

**Social Structure in Captivity:** Can be kept in pairs or flocks if given enough space, non-parent birds have been documented helping feed chicks

**Minimum Group Size:** 2

**Maximum Group Size:** 12+, as space allows

**Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:** Yes

**Comments:** Very compatible with most bird species

**Optimal Habitat Size:** Mesh no smaller than 1”x0.5”, enclosure 4’x8’x12’ tall for one pair at minimum, taller enclosures are more successful for breeding groups

**Management Challenges:** Breeding compatibility in pairs. They can be a more difficult species to trap in large aviaries.

### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Emerald starlings are a non-dominant bird in mixed species aviaries, they mostly ignore other species. They are mid-to-upper canopy dwellers and have better breeding success in taller aviaries. Chicks can be hand reared, contact the SSP for more details.
REFERENCES:

Photo credit: Michael Durham, Oregon Zoo


COMPLETED BY:

Name: Gwen Harris  
Date: 12/1/2017