Species Fact Sheets

| **Order:** | Passeriformes |
| **Scientific Name:** | Paradisaea raggiana |
| **Family:** | Paradisaeidae |
| **Common Name:** | Raggiana Bird-of-paradise |

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

**Photo (Male):**

**Photo (Female):**

**NATURAL HISTORY:**

| **Geographic Range:** | Europe | ☐ | Asia | x | North America | ☐ | Neotropical | ☐ |
| Africa | ☐ | Australia | ☐ | Other | Found only on the island of Papua New Guinea |

| **Habitat:** | Forest | x | Desert | ☐ | Grassland | ☐ | Coastal | ☐ |
| Riverine | ☐ | Montane | ☐ | Other |

Found in a variety of forest habitats including lowland, hill and lower montane forests. They can range from sea level to 1500m and may inhabit secondary growth, forest edges, gardens, and casuarinas trees in deforested areas. Almost any habitat type will suffice for a lek to form, high ridge crests to valley floors.

| **Circadian Cycle:** | Diurnal | x | Crepuscular | ☐ | Nocturnal | ☐ | Other |
| Male displays occur most often in the early morning hours |

| **Cold Tolerance:** | To 70° F | ☐ | To 60° F | ☐ | To 50° F | ☐ | To 40° F | x |
| To 30° F | ☐ | To 20° F | ☐ | Other |

| **Heat Tolerance:** | To 30° F | ☐ | To 50° F | ☐ | To 70° F | ☐ | To 90° F |
| To 110° F | ☐ | Other |

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

Captive Dietary Needs:  
Raggiana Bird-of-paradise are susceptible to hemochromatosis so a low iron diet is required. It is recommended that they be fed a diet of 39% Low iron pellet (no more than 125ppm), 60% low iron fruit mix (apple, papaya, pear, and melon), 1% meal worms (during breeding season only). Also able to feed chopped greens (kale, collard greens, and romaine).

Life Expectancy in the Wild:  
- Males: Unknown  
- Females: Unknown

Life Expectancy in Captivity:  
- Males: Oldest recorded male was 26 years old  
- Females: Oldest female recorded is currently 27 years old

BREEDING INFORMATION:  

Age at Sexual Maturity:  
- Males: 7 years, although males have been known to breed as young as 4 years  
- Females: 4 years

Courtship Displays:  
Male Raggiana Bird-of-paradise form leks in which males congregate to a tree and perform elaborate mating displays for on looking females. The male display involves four major parts that include the frontal display, the upright wing pose, the wing beat phase, and the flower display. An interested female will closely inspect a male who will then hit her on the head several times with his beak before she accepts him and copulation occurs. Males in the lek display can be very loud and heard from great distances.

Nest Site Description:  
Nesting options for females can be either an open box style with cup nests on the top and bottom or an enclosed wooden nest box. Females will sometimes lay eggs on top of the next box and a cup nest placed on top will prevent the egg from rolling off and breaking. The bottom of the box is ½ “by ½” wire with a woven basket attached inside to the wire. The box is made from wood measuring 12” x 12” and ¾” thickness. Females will add nesting materials when they are ready to mate. Materials often include pine needles, various large leaves, bamboo leaves, grass, moss, and fern roots.

Clutch Size, Egg Description:  
1-2 eggs, pinkish color with brown markings that are centralized at air cell end. Average egg size 36.26mm by 25.34mm

Incubation Period: 16-19 days  
Fledgling Period: 17-23 days

Parental Care:  
Females alone incubate the egg(s) and care for young.
### Chick Development:
Chicks grow rapidly. Hand-rearing protocols and detailed descriptions of development is well documented by the Avian Propagation Center at the San Diego Zoo. Chicks that are hand-reared are usually independent by day 20-27, but will continue to beg from caretakers for several weeks afterwards.

### CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

#### Social Structure in the Wild:
Males form leks to display to potential females during breeding season. Females are solitary and do all parental care by themselves.

#### Social Structure in Captivity:
Young birds can be housed together, but females must be separated before maturity as they become extremely aggressive to each other. Leks can be simulated by housing males in adjacent enclosures where they can see and hear other males display. Young males should be housed in proximity of adult males to learn from observation of their mating display. If an enclosure if large enough, several males can be housed together with a female. Adult females must always be housed separate from each other. Mature females should ideally be given a separate enclosure that only allows male access to her when she is ready to mate, thus allowing her to incubate and rear her young without interruption from a displaying male.

#### Minimum Group Size:
1 pair

#### Maximum Group Size:
Not known, but mature females cannot be housed together

#### Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:
Yes

#### Comments:
Raggiana Bird-of-paradise can be kept in mixed species exhibits that contains low iron diets. This species has been housed with other smaller passerines and reports are that the Raggiana become aggressive and killed some of these smaller species while eggs and chicks were present.

#### Optimal Habitat Size:
At least 9’ x 19’ per bird

### Management Challenges:
Due to the mating structure of this species, it is recommended that any institution considering housing them should be prepared to take at least 2.1 as males drive each other to display for females. Keepers must be attendant to the behavior of the female during breeding season to know when to allow males access to the female and subsequently when to exclude the male and allow the female to begin incubating an egg. Facilities holding this species should also be prepared to artificially incubate eggs and hand-rear young.

### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
Click here to enter text.
REFERENCES:


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