

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Passeriformes
Scientific Name: *Copsychus malabaricus*

Family: Muscicapidae
Common Name: Common Shama Thrush

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe Asia North America Neotropical
 Africa Australia Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

Habitat: Forest Desert Grassland Coastal
 Riverine Montane Other Undergrowth of logged and unlogged mixed forest, teak forest, mixed bamboo forest, secondary jungle, clearings in forest, overgrown tree plantations (including rubber and oil palm), mangroves, coastal vegetation, tidal riverine swamp-forest and kerangas; lowlands.

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 Can live below 40 with supplemental heat, unknown if these birds are ok below freezing temperatures.

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F To 50° F To 70° F To 90° F

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To 110° F



Other

Tolerant of heat, as long as shade and misters are provided. Birds tend to prefer lower/shaded canopy areas

Diet:

Frugivore



Carnivore



Piscivore



Insectivore



Nectivore



Omnivore



Folivore



Other (Add Below)



Captive Dietary Needs:

Largely insectivorous with some accounts of eating small portions of fruit, dependent on insects during chick rearing. Captive diets primarily include a manufactured passerine pellet (insectivore or fruit eater focused), typically manufactured by Mazuri, Lafeber, and/or Marion. Diets may also include gut-loaded mealworms and crickets, soaked/crumbled dog food, chopped fruit, and hard-boiled egg. This species is typically housed in mixed species exhibits, having access to many food options.

Life Expectancy in the Wild:

Males:

unknown

Females:

unknown

Life Expectancy in Captivity:

Males:

Median life exp 5 years, after one year of age

Females:

Median life exp 5 years, after one year of age

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity:

Males:

Can produce fertile eggs as early as 6 months, and up to apx 8 years.

Females:

Hatch young as early as 7 months, and up to apx 12 years

Courtship Displays:

Males sing complex, melodious songs. In captivity, some have observed these songs during the non-breeding seasons, either on their own accord or through stimulation through recorded song. It has been noted that females sing short songs only during the breeding season and when in the presence of male partners. Typically monogamous, some observations have seen pair bonds could last at least two years in the wild.

Nest Site Description:

Males sing complex, melodious songs during breeding season and will scout out nesting areas. Females tend to give final approval of a nest site, and then will do most of the nest building while males remain close and protect the site. In captivity, males will sometimes sing during non-breeding, and will often respond to play backs. It has been noted that females sing short songs only during the breeding season and when in the presence of male partners. Typically monogamous, some observations have seen pair bonds could last at least two years in the wild.

Clutch Size, Egg Description:

Clutch can be 1-5 eggs, white in shell color.

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Incubation Period: 13.6 days

Fledgling Period: Fledge around 11 days, fledglings start picking up food on their own within a week of fledging.

Parental Care: In captivity, males have been observed scouting and protecting nesting areas. It seems as though the females make the final decision and do most of the nest building. There are reports from the research done in Hawaii where only the female incubates but there is also past research that says males have been observed incubating. There are some accounts of seeing males bring food to the nest as well, but this was not seen in the research out of Hawaii.

Chick Development: This species can be affected by atoxoplasmosis; if there is consistent neonate die off, or fledglings with fluffed feathers and lower activity levels, discuss preventative atoxo treatment plan with medical staff, referencing the sturnid husbandry manual. Will reclutch while still feeding fledged chicks. In captivity, males have been observed doing most of the feedings if the female has reclutched.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Typically monogamous, observations in Hawaii documented pairs lasting at least two years. Not much is known outside of breeding season. Because females are more elusive, it is unknown if they remain in the territory outside of breeding season.

Social Structure in Captivity: Males have been observed displacing females outside of breeding season, possibly indicating they may move out of their territory during the off season. Often times they seem to settle on their own, but careful attention towards this behavior is recommended, removing the female if displacement increases. It is recommended to separate offspring from parents once they start moulting in adult plumage, especially males. One facility reports being able to keep a clutch of females together for apx 15 weeks before displacement was observed.

Minimum Group Size: Single birds can be held, but it is recommended to have a male and female pair. Offspring should only remain with the parents until they begin to show adult plumage, around 1 month after fledge.

Maximum Group Size: One male and one female. It is unknown at this time if a group of unrelated females could be held together. One facility reports being able to house two males together, but they separate them during

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breeding season.

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:

Yes

Comments:

Mix well with rainforest species, including other song birds, doves, turacos, hoopoes, and ground dwelling birds. In these mixed species exhibits, it is encouraged to keep a close eye on species that may predate on nests, management solutions include shifting those birds off exhibit for the short incubation/fledging period or providing secure nest boxes where other birds can't reach inside. This species is very territorial and will displace exhibit mates if the individuals enter in their established territory, but the displacement rarely escalates and seems to resolve on its own. There is one recent account of the species causing physical harm to exhibit birds but this seems less common in most situations. Can be territorial if they are housed with birds of the same taxonomic family, specifically when both pairs are set up for breeding. With that said, some facilities have been able to house taxonomically similar single individuals, as long as both species aren't breeding. Additionally, larger complex aviaries can accommodate these breeding pairs, depending on space and nesting availability. In smaller holding spaces, the species tends to displace exhibit mates more frequently, pairing them with doves or ground dwelling species seems to work for those situations.

Optimal Habitat Size: Size can vary from typical off-exhibit holding runs (apx 5 feet wide by 8 feet deep, 6 feet tall) to large walk-through tropical exhibits. Special attention to adding foliage cover and branchy perching to un-planted spaces.

Management Challenges: Does not do well in same sex flocks and offspring need to be moved from parents as soon as they begin to show adult plumage, usually around 1 month after fledge. If committed to breeding this species, there must be separate holding for offspring fairly soon after fledge.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Male and female shamas usually vocalized within their territories. Both sexes (and fledglings) made a "Tck" call, usually in response to disturbance within the territory, or just before sallying for a prey item. Male songs are much more complex compared to

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females, hence why they are traded so readily as pets and for songbird competitions. This species is a focus of the Asian Songbird Crises and could be an excellent ambassador in communicating zoo conservation work with in South East Asia.

REFERENCES:

Collar, N. & Kirwan, G.M. (2018). White-rumped Shama (*Kittacincla malabarica*). In: del Hoyo, J., Elliott, A., Sargatal, J., Christie, D.A. & de Juana, E. (eds.). Handbook of the Birds of the World Alive. Lynx Edicions, Barcelona. (retrieved from <https://www.hbw.com/node/58486> on 25 September 2018).

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