

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Passeriformes
Scientific Name: *Dryonastes courtoisi*

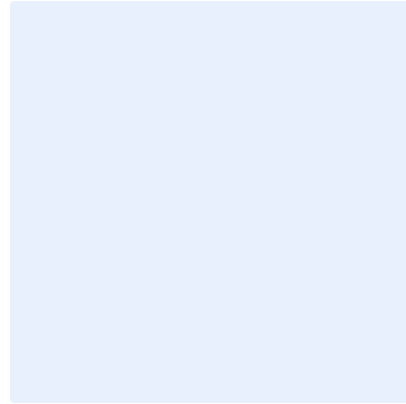
Family: Timalidae
Common Name: Blue-crowned laughingthrush

AZA Management: ☐ Green ☒ Yellow ☐ Red ☐ None

Photo (Male): Species is monomorphic



Photo (Female):



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe ☐ Asia ☒ North America ☐ Neotropical ☐
 Africa ☐ Australia ☐ Other Very restricted range in China.

Habitat: Forest ☒ Desert ☐ Grassland ☐ Coastal ☐
 Riverine ☒ Montane ☐ Other [Click here to enter text.](#)

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 ☐
 Laughingthrush are generally very tolerant of extremes in temperatures. For acclimated birds, supplemental heat and shelter should be offered if temperatures fall below 20°F.

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F ☐ To 50° F ☐ To 70° F ☐ To 90° F ☐
 To 110° F ☒ Other ☐
 Laughingthrush are generally very tolerant of extremes in temperatures. For fully acclimated birds, sufficient shade and shelter should be offered if temperatures exceed 90°F.

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Diet:	Frugivore	<input type="checkbox"/>	Carnivore	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscivore	<input type="checkbox"/>	Insectivore	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Nectivore	<input type="checkbox"/>	Omnivore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Folivore	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Add Below)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Captive Dietary Needs:

In the wild, feeds on invertebrates and seeds. Nestlings fed mainly with insects. Forages in flocks of up to 40 or more individuals. Forages on ground and in bushes and trees. On ground turns leaf litter; on tree trunks picks out invertebrates; feeds among leafy branches, clinging to overhanging foliage of climbing plants, gleaning for insects.

In captivity, a wide variety of items can be offered to this omnivorous species. A diet containing various chopped fruits and vegetables, soaked kibble or pellets, and live insects is suggested. The meat/insect component of the diet should be increased during the breeding season and chick rearing. A bowl of live insects dusted with calcium carbonate should be kept in the aviary at all times once chicks hatch.

Life Expectancy in the Wild:	Males:	No published data on wild birds	Females:	No published data on wild birds
Life Expectancy in Captivity:	Males:	Many birds have lived to exceed 23 years of age.	Females:	Many birds have lived to exceed 23 years of age.

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity:	Males:	1	Females:	1
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Courtship Displays:	No known published information on courtship.
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Nest Site Description:	Colonial, with several nests simultaneously active in small area; open cup nests are constructed primarily out of sticks with a lining of softer vegetation placed 4-15 meters high. In captivity, birds may construct their nests using hay and dry grasses. A variety of artificial nest structures may be offered including wicker nest baskets, wooden shelves and wire platforms. Birds generally prefer tall aviaries and will nest as high as possible.
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Clutch Size, Egg Description:	3-4 creamy white eggs. Multiple broods may be produced. Breeding season in the wild and captivity: April-August.
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Incubation Period:	14 days	Fledgling Period:	13-16 days
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Parental Care:	Colonial, with several nests simultaneously active in small area; co-operative breeder, up to four individuals attending chicks at one nest, at least three seen to feed chicks
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Chick Development: Chicks grow rapidly after hatch. Hand-rearing protocols and detailed descriptions of chick development at day 1 through 23 are well documented by Owen and Edmans (2006). If hand-rearing is implemented, every effort should be made to reduce imprinting. Chicks begin self-feeding at ~35-45 days of age (20-25 days for hand-reared birds).

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: This species is highly social and commonly occurs in groups in the wild. They breed in circumscribed colonies in which a number of pairs breed simultaneously and are cooperative breeders; co-operative breeder, up to four individuals attending chicks at one nest, at least three seen to feed chicks. Forages in flocks of up to 40 or more individuals.

Social Structure in Captivity: Can be kept in pairs or small groups. Recommended to be kept in pairs for breeding as non-breeding individuals can disrupt nesting attempts of breeders.

Minimum Group Size: 1 pair

Maximum Group Size: variable

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Varies

Comments: Considering their critically endangered status and rarity in captivity, exhibiting this species in a dedicated space is desirable, especially for breeding. This species should not be exhibited with other bird species that could cause physical harm to adults or interfere with nesting attempts. Some holders exhibit and breed this species in mixed flights with a variety of non-competing birds (Passerine and non-Passerines), however extreme care should be exercised when doing so.

Optimal Habitat Size: Enclosures should be as large and tall as possible. Minimum recommended enclosure size for a breeding pair in a heavily planted aviary is 10' x 6.5' x 12'. Enclosures should be inaccessible to rodents, snakes and other potential predators. This species will nest in enclosures of various sizes, but they often prefer to nest at higher levels. An aviary with abundant natural vegetation is perhaps the major contributing factor for successful breeding. Evergreens should be offered when possible to allow for year-round cover and nesting opportunities for early breeders. Dense stands of bamboo and are also desirable. A shallow water feature is desirable as this species loves to bathe. Pools or other large water sources should be drained when chicks are due to fledge.

Management Challenges: This species is generally easy to maintain in captivity and benefits from tall, well-planted exhibits for breeding. The age structure of the current U.S. population is of great concern as most wild-caught birds appear to become post-reproductive in their late teens. European collections have problems managing atoxoplasmosis in this species, and it is thought that this accounts for a high

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proportion of chick deaths (up to 80% chick mortality). It is thought that a higher density of birds within an enclosure may exacerbate this problem. Prophylactic treatment of adults during incubation is recommended.

Refer to Bali Mynah Atoxoplasmosis Treatment Protocols for details:
<http://www.riverbanks.org/subsite/aig/new.htm>

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Quite possibly one of the most critically endangered passerines in captivity. As of 2013, this species is now managed as a Global Species Management Plan. Regionally, within AZA, however, it is still considered a Yellow SSP. Regional studbooks have been replaced by an International Studbook managed by the Zoological Society of London.

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Personal communications

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