

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Passeriformes
Scientific Name: *Paroaria gularis*

Family: Thraupidae
Common Name: Red-capped Cardinal

AZA Management: ☐ Green ☒ Yellow ☐ Red ☐ None

Photo (Male):



Photo (Female):



NATURAL HISTORY:

Geographic Range: Europe ☐ Asia ☐ North America ☐ Neotropical ☒
Africa ☐ Australia ☐ Other ☐ The red-capped cardinal is found specifically in northern and central South America

Habitat: Forest ☐ Desert ☐ Grassland ☐ Coastal ☐
Riverine ☐ Montane ☒ Other ☐ Occurs in mangrove swamps, open wet areas, shrubbery and dense edges around lakes and ponds. The red-capped cardinal is found specifically in northern and central South America

Circadian Cycle: Diurnal ☒ Crepuscular ☐ Nocturnal ☐ Other ☐ They spend the majority of their time foraging

Cold Tolerance: To 70° F ☐ To 60° F ☐ To 50° F ☒ To 40° F ☐
To 30° F ☐ To 20° F ☐ Other ☐ Provide heat and shelter when temperatures reach 55 °F. Lock indoors at 30 °F.

Heat Tolerance: To 30° F ☐ To 50° F ☐ To 70° F ☐ To 90° F ☐
To 110° F ☒ Other ☐ Tolerant of tropical weather if access to shade and cool water is provided.

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

Species Fact Sheets

Captive Dietary Needs:

Feeds on insects, fruit, and rice in the wild. The captive diet is typically a manufactured softbill pellet, fruits and vegetables, and insects.

Life Expectancy in the Wild:	Males:	Unknown- it's assumed that the median lifespan in the wild is similar to that in captivity, 5.8 years.	Females:	Same as male
-------------------------------------	--------	--	----------	--------------

Life Expectancy in Captivity:	Males:	Median life expectancy is 5.8 years if the cardinal survives to its first birthday. Only 25% can be expected to live beyond 10 years	Females:	Same as male
--------------------------------------	--------	--	----------	--------------

BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity:	Males:	Judging by behavior and appearance maturity averages at 10 months with the youngest sire being recorded to successfully reproduce at 6 months	Females:	Judging by behavior and appearance maturity averages at 10 months with the youngest dam being recorded at reproducing at 6 months
--------------------------------	--------	---	----------	---

Courtship Displays:	Males will call and wing flutter to attract the female's attention..
----------------------------	--

Nest Site Description:	The shallow, open nest is constructed from dry grasses, roots, ferns, and twigs with a soft lining placed in the cup. The fork of a branch or a tree overhanging water is a preferred location. In captivity the birds will readily take to smaller woven baskets that they will line with feathers, coco fibers, leaves, and other natural items.
-------------------------------	--

Clutch Size, Egg Description:	2-3 eggs that are off-white and spotted evenly with sepia and dark brown spots
--------------------------------------	--

Incubation Period:	12 days
---------------------------	---------

Fledgling Period:	Approximately 14 days.
--------------------------	------------------------

Parental Care:	Female incubates the eggs but both parents assist with chick rearing.
-----------------------	---

Chick Development:	Chicks are independent within two weeks of fledge. The juvenile red-capped cardinal appears similar to the adult but the black feathers are instead brown and the white feathers are instead an off-white. The red crown is orange
---------------------------	--

Species Fact Sheets

colored instead. The beak and the legs are black and white is present at the base of the mandible. The adult plumage appears first as spots on the throat. Depending on the individual pairs and the circumstances chicks can typically be housed with the parents for up to eight months. As they approach maturity there will often be an increase in aggression from the parents.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Occurs as singles or in pairs. May forage in small family groups.

Social Structure in Captivity: A pair is recommended, single sex birds can be maintained in flocks but care must be taken when new birds are added to the group as there will almost certainly be some aggression seen. When kept in larger flock that aggression often ceases to be an issue

Minimum Group Size:	2	Maximum Group Size:	Single sex flocks have been kept as large as 18 individuals but this is very dependent on the size of the exhibit.
----------------------------	---	----------------------------	--

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:	Yes	Comments:	They can easily be housed with wide range of other birds including tanagers, finches, sunbitterns, curassow, motmots, honeycreepers, non-breeding aracaris, cock-of-the-rock as examples.
--	-----	------------------	---

Optimal Habitat Size: Have successfully bred in enclosures measuring 8'x4'x8' as long as some sight barriers are provided

Management Challenges: Chick mortality is high but this is likely due to nutritional issues that the SSP is trying to identify and correct.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

The Red-capped Cardinal is an ideal candidate for a mixed species exhibit. They are conspicuous and tend to gravitate toward visible locations while utilizing the exhibit space. Their red crown is easily identified and their soft melodious vocalizations is something to be appreciated.

Species Fact Sheets

REFERENCES:

http://farm4.staticflickr.com/3216/2891008896_633f4b3701_z.jpg?zz=1

https://neotropical.birds.cornell.edu/Species-Account/nb/p_p_spp/overview?p_p_spp=640716

Red-capped Cardinal SSP

<http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/Red-capped-Cardinal>

http://animals.wikia.com/wiki/Red-capped_Cardinal

Click here to enter text.

Click here to enter text.

Click here to enter text.

Click here to enter text.

COMPLETED BY:

Name: Samantha Amstutz, Riverbanks Zoo

Date: 1/20/2018