

Species Fact Sheets

Order: Strigiformes
Scientific Name: Pulsatrix perspicillata

Family: Strigidae
Common Name: Spectacled Owl

AZA Management: Green Yellow Red None



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 [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 [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:
 Wild Spectacled owls are known to eat a variety of items including small mammals (including bats), birds, reptiles, and invertebrates such as crabs. In captivity, they thrive on prepared meat diets as well as whole prey items including chicks, mice, rats and similar items.

Life Expectancy in the Wild: Males: 10 yrs Females: 10 yrs

Life Expectancy in Captivity: Males: 15 – 20 yrs Females: 15-20 yrs

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BREEDING INFORMATION:

Age at Sexual Maturity: Males: 2 yrs Females: 2 yrs

Courtship Displays: Vocalizations and often close proximity while roosting

Nest Site Description: The owl will utilize cavity nests as well as open topped nesting sites. They do not make their own nests.

Clutch Size, Egg Description: One or two eggs are laid per clutch. Eggs are white and more rounded than elongate.

Incubation Period: 36 days

Fledgling Period: The fledgling will leave the nest after 8 weeks or so

Parental Care: Both parents will incubate, brood and raise the chicks.

Chick Development: Chicks are hatched and are altricial. They grow quickly but have a predominant white plumage. This juvenile plumage is replaced in the first or second year.

CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION:

Social Structure in the Wild: Pairs will hold a territory. Offspring will be tolerated in

Social Structure in Captivity: Usually held as a pair for an exhibit but often as a singleton for use as an education animal.

Minimum Group Size: one

Maximum Group Size: Two plus offspring

Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits: Yes **Comments:** Spectacled owls have been housed with other larger species including wild turkey.

Optimal Habitat Size: Exhibit recommendations are for a minimum of 12' x 12' x10'. Tethering is also an accepted way to hold education owls but free-lofting is better practice.

Management Challenges: This species is cold sensitive and will need supplemental heat via heated shelter or box or an indoor location.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Males and females appear identical. Males are smaller than females although there is an overlapping weight range. There are 6 recognized subspecies or races but they are managed in AZA at the species level. This is the only endemic Neotropical owl in AZA collections at this time.

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REFERENCES:

Owl ACM

OWLS (Konig, Weick, Becking)

Owls of North America (Backhouse)

Owls of the United States and Canda (Lynch)

North American Owls (Johnsgard)

Owls of the World (Hume and Boyer)

Owls: The life and behavior (Wolfe and De LaTorre)

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