

DACNIS, BLUE

RANGE:

Central & South America, Caribbean Islands.

HABITAT:

Tropical rainforests, lowlands & foothills, from forest floor to the canopy. Forest edges, open woodlands, scrublands, second growth forests, up to altitudes of 4000 ft.

SIZE:

Length: 4.5 inches (11.4 cm)

LIFE EXPECTANCY:

Unknown

REPRODUCTION:

- Nesting season is from January to September.
- Nests are usually located between leafy twigs about 18-25 ft. up in an isolated tree. Nest is a deep, cup shaped structure made of plant fibers, seed down and leaves, tucked into the fork of a tree.
- Normally lay 2 eggs, which are white with dark markings.
- Both male and female feed offspring, and can generally be found foraging in treetops.

DIET:

Wild: Nectar, fruits & insects.

Zoo: Fruit, egg white, mealworms

BEHAVIOR:

- Blue dacnises are usually found alone or in pairs. Rarely found in small groups
- They can often be found with honeycreeper and tanager flocks, foraging in the treetops.
- Are known for their acrobatic abilities in reaching and hanging from branches while searching for insects, etc.
- Are usually quiet birds, do not really sing.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Males can be recognized by their brilliant blue color with black markings on the wings.
- Females are a paler blue-green to green color.
- When viewing the animals on exhibit, they appear to be quite tame and will come close to get mealworms, etc.

STATUS:

Fairly common neo-tropical birds. Less common in the Caribbean; more common along the Pacific coast of South America.

REFERENCES:

http://www.clemetzoo.com/animals/animal_info/dacnis_blue.html

<http://www.isis.org/abstracts/Abs65296.asp>

<http://www.arthurgrosset.com/sabirds/blue%20dacnis.html>

theZOO
LOUISVILLE

PHOTO
COMING
SOON

Order:	Passeriformes
Family:	Emberizidae
Genus:	Dacnis
Species:	cayana