

PIGEON, MAURITIUS PINK

RANGE:

Native only to the Island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean.

HABITAT:

Sub-tropical evergreen and dwarf upland forests. Found in the Black River Gorge area of Mauritius, in the southwest region of the island.

SIZE:

Length: Average 10 – 12 inches (26 – 32 cm) Males generally slightly smaller than the females.

Weight: Approximately ¾ lb. (0.35 kilograms)

LIFE EXPECTANCY:

14 – 18 years

REPRODUCTION:

- Males perform a courtship display described as a repeated bowing towards the female. They have a long breeding season, running from December to September, but is most active in April & June.
- Mauritius pink pigeons breed and roost in trees and they build a typical nest like that of most pigeons.
- These pigeons lay 1 – 2 eggs, which are incubated for 14 – 15 days by both the male and the female. Both parents are involved in the rearing of the nestlings.
- If eggs are lost, the female will recycle, laying another clutch.

DIET:

Wild: Fruit, flowers, buds, leaves, grain, vegetables on occasion, small invertebrates such as snails.

Zoo: Assorted fruit and grain

BEHAVIOR:

- These birds roost and feed in small flocks of 10 – 20 individuals.
- Both sexes are involved in nest building activities.
- During the breeding season, monogamous pairs work together to defend small territories selected for raising their young.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Mauritius pink pigeons get their name from their pale pink feathers.
- Wings are generally brown and the tail is a chestnut color. The bill, legs and feet are also pink.
- Sexes are similar in appearance, but females are slightly duller in color and slightly larger. Juveniles are darker and duller than adults and their feathers are tipped with a buff color.
- Are no real native predators; however, they have become endangered due to exotic invasions by such species as macaques, feral cats and black rats. Both adults and eggs are taken by these invaders. Conservation efforts are centered on eliminating these non-native species.

STATUS:

Endangered. CITES Appendix II. Nearly Extinct due to loss of habitat and exotic invaders. In 1993, only 21 were known to exist in the wild. 2006 figures show about 40 animals in captivity in the United States.

theZOO
LOUISVILLE

PHOTO
COMING
SOON

Order:	Columbiformes
Family:	Columbidae
Genus:	Columba
Species:	mayeri

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REFERENCES:

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<http://www.xmission.com/~hoglezoo/birds/pinkpgn.htm>

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<http://www.tenan.vuurwerk.nl/reports/dible/erica-pigeon.htm>

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