

PIGEON, PIED IMPERIAL

RANGE:

Philippines and New Guinea

HABITAT:

Small off-shore islets away from the mainland.

SIZE:

Body length is 37.5 cm or 14 ¾ inches long.

LIFE EXPECTANCY:

Approximately 8 years in captivity and 4 years in the wild.

REPRODUCTION:

The breeding season is from January to March. Nest is a flimsy platform made of sticks constructed high up in coconut palms. One or two eggs are laid and 2 or more broods are raised each year. Both parents incubate the eggs, the male during the day the female at night. Both parents feed the altricial young by regurgitation of "pigeon milk", the sloughed off thickened lining of the crop. The young poke their beaks inside the parents' throats to get the milk. Older chicks are fed half-digested grain from their parents' crops. The young stay with the parents until they are able to fly at 2 to 3 weeks.

DIET:

Seeds, grains, and fruits in the wild. Vegetables and fruits in the zoo.

BEHAVIOR:

They stay in the crown of the tallest trees of the jungle and mangrove forest 200 feet above the ground. They are non-migratory but travel in flocks shifting feeding grounds throughout the year following the fruiting of various trees. They are noted for making long daily flights over water from island to island in search of food.

POINTS OF INTREST:

The Pied Imperial pigeon is milky white with black primaries, secondaries and tail tip. The pigeons live on nutmeg and other large nuts and fruits that are larger than their heads. Their jaws have elastic sockets like a boa constrictor's that stretch to accommodate large objects. They have often been kept in aviaries.

STATUS:

Common

theZOO
LOUISVILLE

PHOTO
COMING
SOON

Order:	Columbiformes
Family:	Columbidae
Genus:	Ducula
Species:	bicolor