

# African Harrier-Hawk

*Polyboroides typus*

Previously known as the Gymnogone, the African Harrier Hawk is found in large parts of Africa south of the Sahara Desert.

The only Bird of Prey with a flexible-jointed or double-jointed leg, the African Harrier Hawk is a very distinctive and common bird of prey in large parts of Africa. Like with most birds of prey, the oldest chick to hatch will kill the younger ones in what is termed the "Cain and Abel" syndrome.

They very obvious when hunting in trees, on rock faces or on the ground, where it clambors about at odd angles, even hanging upside down, with its wings flapping for balance.

The two we have on display were given to us by the African Bird of Prey Sanctuary in Pietermaritzburg. They had both been hit by cars and have suffered permanent wing damage which means they cannot be released in to the wild.



**Lifespan:** 40 Years  
**Weight:** 555 - 950 g  
**Size:** 65 cm  
**Breeding Season:** Varies according to area  
**Incubation Period:** 35 Days  
**Number of Chicks:** 1 - 3  
**Diet:** Mainly small animals such as birds, their eggs and hatchlings, Lizards, Bats, Squirrels and Insects  
**Problems They Face:** None – one of the most common birds of prey  
**Conservation Status:** Not Globally Threatened – CITES App 2