

Northern Ground Hornbill

Bucorvus abyssinicus



The Northern or Abyssinian Ground Hornbill is found in Open Grasslands and Savannah areas.

The 2 species of Ground Hornbill do not seal the female in the nest like the rest of the Hornbill species. Although 2 eggs are typically laid, they usually only rear 1 chick successfully. This is partly due to food availability. Ground hornbills have been shown to only rear 1 chick to adulthood successfully every 9 years on average.

The growth on top of the beak that looks like it has been broken is known as a casque. All the hornbills have one but only the Northern Ground Hornbill is the only one where the front peels off and looks broken. This happens in the wild and captivity. Our pair came to us from the San Diego Zoo back in 1992, and have produced 12 offspring during their time with us.



Lifespan: 45 Years

Weight: 3-4kg

Wingspan: 1.5m

Breeding Season: Spring and Summer

Incubation Period: 38 - 40 Days

Number of Chicks: 1 - 2

Diet: Omnivorous. Eats small mammals, reptiles, insects and birds and fruit.

Problems they Face: Habitat destruction, persecution by farmers and traditional beliefs

Conservation Status: Least Concern