

Red-billed Hornbill

Tockus erythrorhynchus



Found in savannahs and woodlands in sub-saharan Africa, there are 5 recognised sub-species of the Red-billed Hornbill, split according to the areas they are found.

Just as common, but not as well-known as the Yellow-billed Hornbill, the Red-billed Hornbill is one of the smaller of the hornbill species. Like most of the other hornbill species, they nest in tree cavities.

During incubation, the female lays three to six white eggs in a tree hole, which is blocked off with a plaster of mud, droppings and fruit pulp. There is only one narrow aperture, just big enough for the male to transfer food to the mother and the chicks. When the chicks and the female are too big for the nest, the mother breaks out and rebuilds the wall. Then both parents feed the chicks until they are old enough to feed themselves. The parents will then break open the entrance to the nest so the chicks can leave.



Lifespan: 20 Years

Weight: 110 - 200 g

Size: 42 cm

Breeding Season: September - March

Incubation Period: 24 Days

Number of Chicks: 2 - 6

Diet: Insects, Grasshoppers, Caterpillars, Scorpions, Centipedes, Fruits, Berries, Eggs

Problems They Face: Hunted as food, used in traditional medicine.

Conservation Status: Not Globally Threatened