

Yellow-billed Hornbill

Tockus leucomelas

This well-known hornbill is a common, widespread resident of dry thorn fields and broad-leafed woodlands in the dry savannah regions of Southern Africa.

By far one of the best known Hornbill species thanks primarily to the Lion King movie. Yellow-billed hornbills are very inquisitive and generally have little fear of people so can often be seen really close in many of the larger game reserves in Southern Africa. Although most of their food is taken off the ground, they will also fly up into the air to catch flying insects and grasshoppers.

Found on their own or in small groups, they become very territorial at the beginning of the breeding season and will then defend their patch of land. They will often give loud calls during displays around their territory or during courtship, and these vocal displays are often accompanied by spectacular visual displays of bouncing and wing flapping.



Lifespan: 20 Years

Weight: 130 - 240 g

Size: 48 – 60 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