

Hadada Ibis

Bostrychia hagedash

Conservation Story

Conservation Status and Threats

- Listed on the IUCN Red List as least concern
- Threats:
 - Extended droughts reduce food availability to hadada ibises. When soil becomes dry and hardens, it becomes too difficult for their bills to probe the soil for food.
 - There have been concerns that the loss of wetland habitats may lead to a decline in hadada ibis populations, however, hadada ibises have adapted well to agricultural land and have expanded into these areas, eating insects that feed on crops.

What We Can Do

- By supporting the Maryland Zoo, you are supporting global wildlife conservation. The Maryland Zoo works with many organizations around the world to conserve species and ecosystems.
- There are many large and small changes we can make to our daily lives to support wildlife here in Maryland and around the world. Some examples are listed below.
 - Make environmentally responsible lifestyle decisions to help conserve habitat.
 - Reduce litter and pollution by participating in community cleanups, recycling, and taking advantage of reusable items.
 - Use pesticides and other hazardous materials sparingly and dispose of them properly to ensure that they do not leach into natural ecosystems.
 - Create habitat for local wildlife by planting native plants and building nest boxes for helpful animals such as bees, bats, and owls.
- Get involved with your friends, coworkers, or neighbors to take action in your local community by organizing or participating in neighborhood initiatives. Some examples of community-level actions are bike share programs, cleanups, and community gardens. By working together, we can have an even bigger positive effect on the environment!

In the Wild

Description

- Size:
 - Length: 2-2.5 ft
 - Wingspan: 3 ft
- Weight: 2.75 lbs
- Physical Description:
 - Large wading bird with a downward curved bill and broad wings

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- Grey-brown colored body with white stripe along the side of the head
- Wings have iridescent purple and green feathers
- Legs are black, with a grey bill that has a red stripe on the upper bill
- Sexual dimorphism: None

Habitat and Range

- Range: Sub-Saharan Africa
- Habitat:
 - Open moist grasslands, marshes, and wetland edge habitat
 - Makes frequent use of man-made irrigated farmland and wetland habitats

Diet

- Carnivorous: Eats insects, worms and other invertebrates

Adaptations

- The hadada ibis has a scimitar shaped beak which helps it probe soft mud for invertebrates to eat.
- The bill is more sensitive to touch than that of other birds. When probing the mud or ground, the sense of touch is more useful than sight in finding prey.
- As a wading bird, the hadada ibis has long legs and toes to help it wade through shallow water and mud to find prey.

Social Structure

- Social
- Gathers in small groups during the day
- Roosts in large groups at night

Lifespan/Life Cycle

- Median life expectancy: Unknown
- Maximum longevity: Up to 16 years

Ecosystem relationships

- Predators:
 - Eggs and hatchlings: genets, monkeys, monitor lizards and other nest predators
 - Adults: hawks and eagles
- Importance:
 - Helps regulate invertebrate populations
 - Is a food source for larger predators

Reproduction

- Breeding season: Year round, peaking towards the end of the rainy season
 - Behavior: Monogamous, solitary nesters

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- Builds nests made of sticks and twigs in trees
- Reuses nest sites from year to year
- Sometimes uses abandoned nests
- Males and females incubate eggs
- Incubation: 25-28 day
- Clutch size: 2-3 eggs
- Maturation:
 - Fledge at about 40 days old
 - Fully independent around 60 days old

Activity

- Diurnal

Other “Fun Facts”

- The white stripe on their head is sometimes referred to as a moustache.
- The hadada ibis gets its name from its vocalization: “Ha-ha-ha-da-da, Ha-ha-dee-daa”.

At the Zoo

- Hadada ibises are on exhibit in the African Aviary during the summer and off exhibit during the winter.
- 3 females unnamed came from Jacksonville Zoo

Additional Resources and References:

- Handbook of the Birds of the World: <http://www.hbw.com/species/hadada-ibis-bostrychia-hagedash>
- Bird Life: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/speciesfactsheet.php?id=3786>
- South African Bird Atlas Project: <http://sabap2.adu.org.za/docs/sabap1/094.pdf>
- Biodiversity Explorer: http://www.biodiversityexplorer.org/birds/threskiornithidae/bostrychia_hagedash.htm
- Hockey PAR, Dean WRJ and Ryan PG 2005. *Roberts - Birds of southern Africa*, VIIth ed. The Trustees of the John Voelcker Bird Book Fund, Cape Town.
- *Bostrychia hagedash*, Birds of Africa v. p. 195
- Encyclopedia of Life: <http://eol.org/pages/1049659/details>