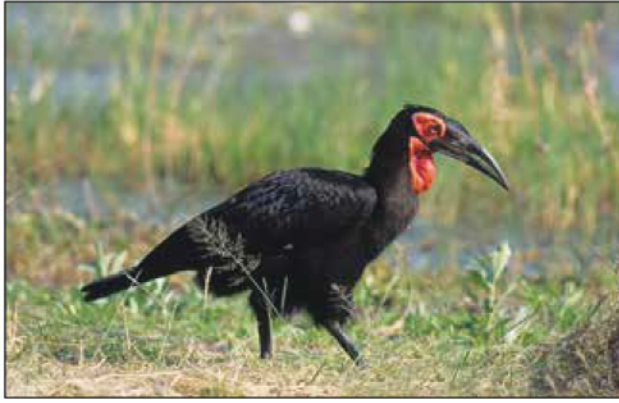


## SOUTHERN GROUND HORNBILL

updated March 2017



<b>Range</b>	Sub-Saharan Africa, most densely populated in Zimbabwe and Botswana
<b>Habitat</b>	Mostly savannas with large mature trees and grasslands. Short and dense grasslands for feeding. Also feed in agricultural fields.
<b>Diet (wild)</b>	Mainly insects; will also eat a range of terrestrial animals, including amphibians, small mammals, and some reptiles. Occasionally scavenge dead animals and forage for fruits and seeds.
<b>Diet (captivity)</b>	
<b>Description</b>	Length: 35–50 inches; wingspan: 4–6 feet; weight: 4–14 pounds. Males are larger than females. They have a large curved shape on top of their bill called a casque, which is larger on males. The casque is thought to help with the deep loud calls both sexes make. They have thick black legs with black feathers, a red face and white primary feathers. Males have entirely red throat sac while females have red throat sacs with a violet-blue patch. Juveniles are dull and brown. They have pale yellow eyes protected from the dust and sun by feathers that look like eye lashes. Their large downward curving beak has a forceps like grip that's great for picking up grubs and insects.
<b>Lifespan</b>	Wild: unknown; estimated 50–60 years. Captivity: up to 70 years
<b>Reproduction</b>	The female lays 1–2 eggs that hatch after 40 days. Only one nestling survives (often the second chick dies from malnutrition.) The chick leaves the nest after three months and may remain with the family group for up to nine years. There is only one mating pair per flock. The nesting area is usually surrounded by leaves and protected in a tree or rock cavity. The male protects the female while she is nesting, watching for small predators that may steal their eggs. Southern hornbills show cooperative breeding: The male and other hornbills in the flock provide food for the incubating female. Once the chicks hatch, the offspring receive care from both parents and flock members.
<b>Behavior</b>	Southern ground hornbills roost in trees at night and spend most of the day walking on the ground. They give a deep reverberating call before leaving their tree to hunt and will patrol with other hornbills in small groups of around a dozen.
<b>Our animals</b>	2 females. Born: 01/2006 and 12/2006
<b>Cool stuff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southern ground hornbills ride on the backs of warthogs to eat parasitic insects.</li> <li>• Southern ground hornbills reach sexual maturity at about three years of age. At this time, the facial skin of males becomes entirely red and that of females becomes violet-blue below the bill, indicating sexual maturity.</li> </ul>

Phylum  
ChordataClass  
AvesOrder  
CoraciiformesFamily  
BucconidaeGenus  
Bucorvusspecies  
*B. leadbeateri*