

Other birds to see at Shelanti

- Southern Yellow-billed Hornbill
Geelbekneushoringvoël
- Southern Red-billed Hornbill
Rooibekneushoringvoël
- African Grey Hornbill
Grysneushoringvoël
- Cape Crow
Swartrakraai
- Pied Crow
Witborskraai
- Brown Snake Eagle
Bruinslangarend
- Martial Eagle
Breëkoparend
- Marabou Stork
Maraboe

Vulture Checklist

See inside for more information

- White-backed
Witrugaasvoël
- Hooded Vulture
Monnikaasvoël
- Cape Vulture
Kransaasvoël
- Rüppel's Vulture
Ruppelse Aasvoël
- Lappet-faced Vulture
Swartaasvoël



VULTURE Conservation



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THE IMPORTANCE OF VULTURES

They are scavengers that do the dirty work of cleaning up after death, helping to keep ecosystems healthy and prevent the spread of diseases. The conservation of vultures are important to increase the numbers of these endangered species.

Why are Vultures endangered

- Vultures are killed by farmers who put out poisoned meat. The poisoned meat is intended to kill the predators that kill their livestock.
- Body parts are used in traditional medicine in southern Africa.
- They are poisoned by poachers because they would reveal the location of poached animals such as elephants or rhinos.



Lappet-faced Vulture Swartaasvoël

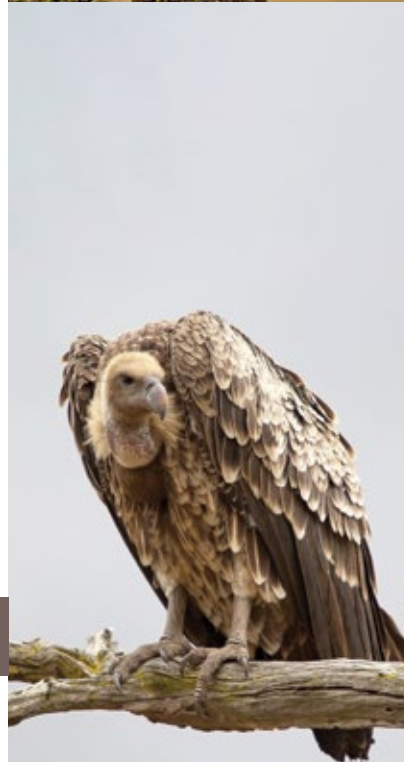
Bodyweight: 4.5 – 8.5kg
Wingspan: 2.6 – 2.8m

Also known as the King of Vultures. The reason for this is that they would normally tear open the skin of the carcass.

They would dominate the other vultures at a carcass because of their size and strength.

The Lappet-faced Vulture will feast on skin, hair, ligaments and tendons.

Easy to distinguish the red throat and dark stripes over the white chest.



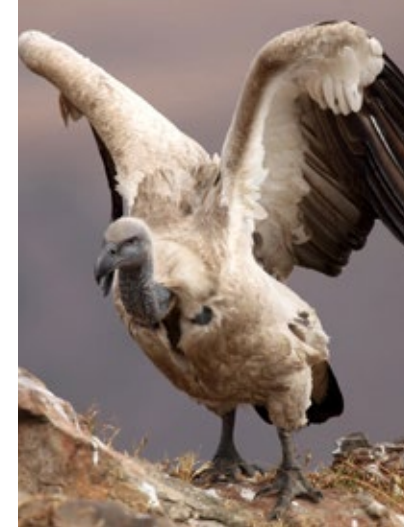
White-backed Vulture Witruugaasvoël

Bodyweight: 4.6 – 6.6kg
Wingspan: 2.1 – 2.3m

White-backed Vultures are the most common vulture species. They are greedy and noisy and they would normally jump from one foot to another to play boss at the carcass.

They would feed inside the carcass and they would even try to chase away less aggressive predators from the carcass.

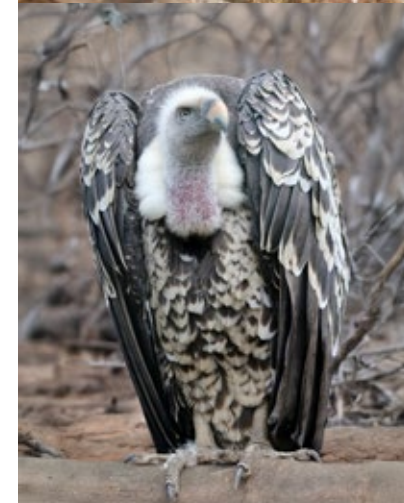
Prominent white marking on its back. Usually the head and neck would be black.



Cape Vulture Kransaasvoël

Bodyweight: 7.4 – 10.8kg
Wingspan: 2.5 – 2.6m

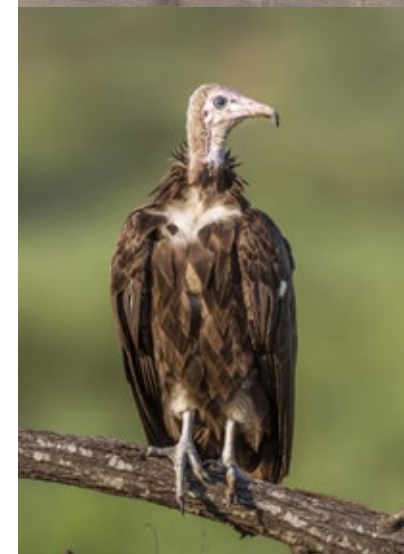
Cape Vultures are highly social, nesting against cliffs and rocky edges. They live in colonies of 6 to 100 breeding pairs. Their nests are often decorated with sticks stolen from neighbouring nests, and the same nests are usually reused for years. They are larger than the White-backed Vulture, with a lighter, cream-coloured body. The wing and tail tips are darker.



Rüppell's Vulture Ruppelse Aasvoël

Bodyweight: 6.8 – 8kg
Wingspan: 2.3 – 2.5m

These birds can reach heights of 10,000m above sea level. It is the highest-flying bird in the world due to an alteration of one protein, allowing efficient flight despite lower pressure and oxygen levels. The current population of 30,000 is decreasing due to habitat loss, incidental poisoning, and other previously mentioned factors. Adults have yellow eyes and beaks. White spots on the body give the vulture a spotty appearance.



Hooded Vulture Monnikaasvoël

Bodyweight: 1.8 – 2.6kg
Wingspan: 1.8 – 2.6kg

Also known as the King of Hooded Vultures would eat the softer organs such as the eyes and intestines. They would watch from the sidelines and wait patiently for some scraps. Their beaks are small and adapted to pick up any scraps that might come their way. These vultures would have a narrow head and thin beak. Their faces would turn red when they are upset. Easily distinguished because it is the smallest of all vultures.