

Hooded Vulture

Scientific Name: *Necrosyrtes monachus*

Class: Aves

Order: Accipitriformes

Family: Accipitridae



Hooded Vultures are scavengers and carrion eaters. They are small with a length of about 22-26 inches. They have a long thin bill and pink face that can flush to bright purple. Because they are smaller than other African vultures, the hooded vulture can rise more quickly and is often the first to spot a carcass. They tend to follow humans in agricultural fields, picking out grubs and insects left behind. Mated pairs roost together during and after the breeding season. Nests are built of sticks and lined with green leaves. Young chicks need constant tending for the first 3 weeks.

Range

Mauritania east to Ethiopia and south to Namibia and South Africa, except areas of uninterrupted forest or desert.

Habitat

Mainly open woodland and savanna.

Gestation

Incubation: 48-54 days. Fledging is 89 to 130 days.

Litter

Clutch size: Single egg with reddish spots on whitish base.

Behavior

Gregarious at larger carcasses, but can't compete with larger species, so takes scraps and with fine bill can pick meat from between bones. Male provides food for chicks and mother for 21 days, then both feed young.

Reproduction

Laying usually after rainy season: Oct. – March in West and Northeast Africa. January and April-July in East Africa. May to August in South Africa. Breeds year around. Crops and gizzards can be distended to hold several days' food.

Wild Diet

Carrion and some small insects.