



HADADA IBIS

Ciconiiformes
Family: Threskiornithidae
Genus: *Bostrychia*
Species: *hagedash*



Range: Found throughout open grasslands, savanna and rainforests of Sudan, Ethiopia, Senegal, Uganda, Tanzania, Gabon, Zaire, Cameroon, Gambia, Kenya, Somalia and South Africa

Habitat: Swamps, marshes, flooded areas, rivers with a margin of trees, edges of lakes and pastureland.

Niche: Aquatic, carnivorous, diurnal

Wild diet: Fish, insects, spiders, snails, crustaceans, amphibians and sometimes scavenging for carrion.

Zoo diet: Fish and mice

Life Span: (Wild)
(Captivity)

Sexual dimorphism:

Location in SF Zoo: African Aviary

APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

These generally brown and gray birds are subtly adorned with metallic reflections. The mantle and back is olive green-bronze brown, and the rump and upper tail coverts are glossy bottle green, tan, and blue-black. There is a buff-white stripe on the cheek and a rosy patch sweeps along the top of the long, downward-pointing bill. In flight, the feet don't project beyond the tail.

Weight:	2 - 3 lbs
Length:	26 – 30 inches
Wingspan:	up to 14 inches
Bill Length:	9.5 -12.5 inches

STATUS & CONSERVATION

Widespread and common throughout its large range, the Hadada Ibis is evaluated as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species They are endangered (classified CITES III) in Ghana due to habitat destruction from excessive drainage, but are common elsewhere in wild.

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HADADA IBIS

COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR

This bird has a very distinctive call. It is a loud, far-reaching "Haa-Haa-Haa" - or "Haa-Daa-Daa" - hence its name. Groups usual pairs (especially breeding season), also flocks of 30 (non-breeding season) with several flocks sometimes forming large flock of ~200, wander several miles from roost, never fly in formation. It nests in isolation, many times at the top of telephone poles.

COURTSHIP AND YOUNG

Males display then eventually choose a mate. The pair then engages in mutual bowing and display preening. Males usually gather nest materials, which they ritually offer to their mates. They construct a flimsy nest structure and many eggs and young fall from the nest. Both sexes incubate the 2-6 eggs, often before they have all been laid, which leads to staggered hatching. Both sexes feed the young. Fledglings feed on regurgitated food, which they get by inserting their bills down the parents' gullet. The young develop rapidly and are soon able to leave the nest. The nesting cycle lasts 2-3 months.

Incubation:	28 days	Sexual Maturity:	
# of eggs:	2-6	Fledging:	c. 5 weeks

MISCELLANEOUS

They feed by touch rather than sight, using their long legs and down-curved bills to probe mud and water for prey

Sources:

Cambridge Encyclopedia of Ornithology; © 1991, Michael Brooke & Tim Buckhead, Cambridge.

<http://www.sfzoo.org>

<http://www.oregonzoo.org/Cards/BirdsOfPrey/hadadaibis.htm>

Birds of Africa © 1980, p 54 by John Karmali

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