

# WRINKLED HORNBILL

**BUCEROTIFORMES** 

Family: Bucerotidae Genus: Rhabdotorrhinus

Species: corrugatus



Range: S. Thailand, peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra and Borneo

Habitat: Broadleaved evergreen forest, freshwater swamp forest, lowlands

Niche: Arboreal, frugivorous and diurnal

**Wild diet:** fruits, especially figs, insects and small animals. **Zoo diet:** Seasonal fruits, vegetables, meat and eggs

Life Span: (Wild) 20 – 30 years

(Captivity)

**Sexual dimorphism:** female is smaller with smaller casque and different coloring **Location in SF Zoo:** Bird String between Leaping Lemur Café and Koala exhibit

# **APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:**

Wrinkled hornbills are a large hornbill with a pale tail. The male has a deep yellow bill with a red base, and a wrinkled and ridged red or orange casque. A male's eyes are surrounded by a rim of light blue skin, while the sides of the head, upper breast and tail are white, and the neck is bright yellow. The body, wings and tail tip of the male are black with a metallic green sheen. The female

is smaller than the male and completely black, except for a yellow bill and casque and a distinguishing bright blue neck. The female also has a smaller casque than the male. The juvenile wrinkled hornbill looks similar to the adult male, but lacks any red color and has a small, pale yellow bill that lacks a casque.

Weight: M 3.5 lbs

**Length:** 25.5 – 27.5 in

Wingspan:

The first two vertebrae in their necks are fused to support the weight of their casque. The large bill is fused to the skull. The casque is a hollow or spongy structure made out of keratin. It is believed that this structure acts as a vibrating chamber to make the hornbill's voice louder.

Wrinkled Hornbills do not drink but get the water they need from their food.

## **STATUS & CONSERVATION**

This species is restricted to primary forests within a region experiencing high rates of deforestation. It is therefore likely to be declining at least moderately rapidly and should be carefully monitored. It is therefore currently listed as Endangered. CITES Appendix II.

#### COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR

Wrinkled hornbill calls are a harsh "Kak-kak," or a deep "Row-wow" which can be heard for miles. These hornbills can often be found in pairs when feeding, but have been known to occur in groups of up to 30 birds in large fruit trees. The wrinkled hornbill is not territorial. The flapping wings produce an extremely loud rushing sound.

# **COURTSHIP AND YOUNG**

Wrinkled hornbills are monogamous and remain in a pair for life. Because the female depends so much on the male to provide (food) for her and the nestlings, courtship occurs throughout the year to build and maintain strong pair bonds. The male and female invest much time developing this bond, so it is to their advantage to remain together year after year, returning to the same nest site to breed and raise their young.

Wrinkled hornbill are thought to breed during the rainy season, between December and January. They are cavity nesters and after mating, the female will seal over the entrance to her nest with mud and droppings. The mother and chicks are fed exclusively by the male, who regurgitates the food through a small hole. The female remains on the nest from egg laying until the chicks fledge with the whole process taking about 4 months. If the first clutch fails, the birds will re-nest and try again.

Incubation: 30 days

# of eggs: 2 – 3

Sexual Maturity: 5 – 6 years

Fledging: 65 – 73 days

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Wrinkled Hornbills were first bred in captivity in 1988. There are two subspecies of wrinkled hornbills: *A. c. corrugatus* and *A. c. megistus*.

Sources: created: 11/12

The Handbook of the Birds of the World Vol VI © 2001, Lynx Edicions, p 512.

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http://www.torontozoo.com/exploretheZoo/AnimalDetails.asp?pg=672

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