

# Hamerkop

## *Scopus umbretta*



**Range:** Sub-Saharan Africa  
**Size:** ♂:50.8 cm(20 in)  
♀: 50.8 (20 in)  
**Weight :**♂: 500 g ( 1.1 lbs)  
♀ :500 g( 1.1 lbs)  
**Wing:** 90 cm ( 35 in)  
**Habitat:** forested lowlands  
**Incubation:** 28-30 days  
**Eggs:** 3-7  
**Fledge:** 6-7 weeks  
**Sexual maturity:** N/A  
**Nest:** large platform 1.5 m  
**Social:** solitary or pairs  
**Breeding:** monogamous  
**Movement :** Sedentary  
**Food:** amphibians , shrimp,  
fish  
**IUCN:** least concern  
**Subspecies :** 2  
**Longevity:** captive: 20 yrs  
Wild:



Order:Ciconiiformes Family: Scopidae

It is easy to see where the Hamerkop gets its name. With its downward curving bill and crest its head looks like a hammer, the word Hamerkop comes from the Dutch meaning hammerhead.

The Hamerkop is diurnal feeding in shallow water. It forages by shuffling its feet. It can often be observed riding atop hippopotamuses in the water. The species engages in a strange group behavior. Hamerkops perform elaborate displays, bowing and flapping their wings and giving out a yapping, cackling call. Sometimes several birds will hop each other's backs, stretch their wings and raise their crests. The nest of this bird is extremely large and intricate.

