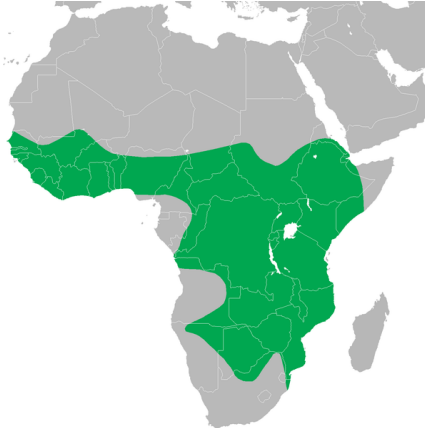


# Marabou

## *Leptoptilos crumeniferus*



Range: Sub-Saharan Africa

Size: :150 cm(60 in)

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Weight : : 9kg (19.8 lbs)

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Wing: 259cm (102in)

Habitat: open country, urban

Incubation: 29-31days

Eggs: 1-3 usually 2

Fledge: 13-15 weeks

Sexual maturity: 36-48 months

Nest: platform made of sticks

Social: colonial

Breeding: monogamous

Movement :generally sedentary

Food: carrion

IUCN: least concern

Subspecies : monotypic

Longevity: captive: 25 yrs Wild:



Order:Ciconiiformes Family:Ciconiidae

Often described as the ugliest living bird, the Marabou stork is totally unique in its looks. A large black bird with a huge bill, it is the largest of the storks. Both sexes are similar in size and have a spotted bald head. However the male can be distinguished by a large red throat pouch. The male also possesses a second red pouch on the dorsal side of the neck. The pouches are used during courtship to provide both a visual cue and to produce a vocal call. In addition to the vocalization produced by the pouch both sexes communicate by bill clapping.

As a scavenger the Marabou's food choices matches its looks. It will eat anything it can swallow including putrid carrion and feces. Marabous can often be found at garbage dumps and near processing plants. Nesting sites are now almost always found near

human settlements. During breeding season the marabou switches from carrion to live food such as birds, frogs small crocodiles and eggs.