

Lappet-faced Vulture

Torgos tracheliotos



Range: Africa, Arabian Peninsula
Size: ♂: 22-33 cm (12.6-15.7 in)
♀: 37-44 cm (15-18.5 in)
Wingspan: 83-103 cm
Weight: ♂: .45-.47 kg (1.2 lb)
♀: .42-.53 kg (1.5 lb)
Diet: Carrion, chicks
Habitat: Grasslands
Eggs: 1-2
Incubation : 54-56 days
Fledging: 125-135 days
Sexual maturity: 2yrs
Social: solitary
Breeding: singly at food site
Subspecies: 2
Longevity: Captivity: 20 yrs
Wild: 20 years
IUCN: Vulnerable

Order: Accipitriformes Family: Accipitridae

One of the largest and most aggressive of the Old World vultures, the Lappet-faced Vulture is usually the first vulture at a kill. This vulture possesses a strong bill which uses to tear through the tough hide of the carrion found on the African plains. Although primarily a scavenger this vulture will also take live food including flamingo chicks, reptiles and small mammals.

There are two subspecies of lappet-faced vultures with one living in the Middle East *T.t negevensis* and the other living in Africa *T.t tracheliotus*. There is some color difference between the species especially the color of the head. *T.t negevensis* having a gray pink head while *T.t tracheliotus* possessing a red head.

The lappet-faced vulture is listed as vulnerable by the IUCN due to the recent decrease in population. Poisoning by farmers, who mistakenly believe the vultures take young livestock, is the main threat to the population.