

SOUTH AFRICAN BIRDS

BLUE CRANE (SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONAL BIRD)

Colour: Light blue-grey with long black wing feathers.

Size: Tall, elegant with a long neck.

Habitat: Grasslands and open plains.

Special fact: Known for their graceful courtship dances.



HADADA IBIS

Colour: Dark brown-grey with a greenish shimmer on wings.

Size: Medium-sized, long down-curved beak.

Habitat: Gardens, parks, wetlands.

Special fact: Famous for their loud "haa-haa-haa-de-dah" call, especially at dawn.



HOODED VULTURE

Colour: Brown body, pink bald head with a "hood" of feathers.

Size: Smaller than the Cape Vulture.

Habitat: Grasslands, woodlands, near human settlements.

Special fact: Often the first to arrive at carcasses, using their smaller size to get food quickly.



MALACHITE KINGFISHER

Colour: Bright blue and orange.

Size: Small to medium, with a short tail and large head.

Habitat: Rivers, dams, wetlands.

Special fact: Excellent hunters that dive into water to catch fish.



CAPE VULTURE

Colour: Creamy-buff body, dark brown wings, bald blue-grey head.

Size: One of the largest vultures in Africa with wide wingspan.

Habitat: Mountain cliffs, open savannahs.

Special fact: A "clean-up crew" that feeds on carcasses, keeping the environment healthy.

