

Secretary Bird

Sagittarius serpentarius

The Secretary Bird is a large, mostly terrestrial bird of prey. Endemic to Africa, it is usually found in the open grasslands and savannas of the sub-Saharan. Although a member of the order Falconiformes, which also includes many other diurnal raptors such as kites, buzzards, vultures, and harriers, it is so distinctive that it was given its own family, Sagittariidae. It enjoys a certain fame in Africa, specifically Sudan and South Africa, serving as a prominent emblem on

both nations' coats of arms. The Secretary Bird is instantly recognizable as having an eagle-like body on crane-like legs which increases the bird's height to around 1.3 m (4 ft) tall. This 140 cm (4.5 ft) long bird has an eagle-like head with a hooked bill, but has rounded wings. Body weight averages at about 3.3 kg (7.3 lbs) and the wingspan is over 2 m (6.6 ft).