

4. Extreme Abilities

Shoebill (*Balaeniceps rex*)

Ability - Standing motionless in excess of half an hour



4.9 Most patient feeder

EXTREME BIRDS

Geographical Distribution – Central Africa



Balaeniceps
Means
"whale-head king,"
evidently a reference
to its bill shape
resembling the
head of a baleen whale
(as well as shoe)

Other names for the
Shoebill include the
boat-bill, bog-bird,
lesser lechwe-eater
(referring to the
shoebill's alleged
taste for lechwe,
or aquatic antelope),
and *abu markub*,
or "father of a slipper"

↑ A Composite Imperf
Deluxe proof
With a Se-tenant strip of 4,
WWF Issue of 1996

Shoebill is also known as **Whale-head** or **Shoe-billed Stork**. This beautiful bird can be found only in eastern parts of Africa, all the way from Sudan to Zambia.

Shoebill prefers life in tropical dense marshes, swamps and wetlands. Shoebill is listed as vulnerable species, with no more than 8000 birds left in the wild.

Maximum Card Issued by The Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences for Protected Birds in Belgian Congo.
Commercially used →

Shoebill can win staring contest. It poops on itself, as it practices **urohydrosis**, the effective-if-revolting-habit of defecating on their legs to lower their body temperature. In fact, this characteristic confused taxonomists.

