

FROM EGG TO FULLY GROWN SECRETARYBIRD

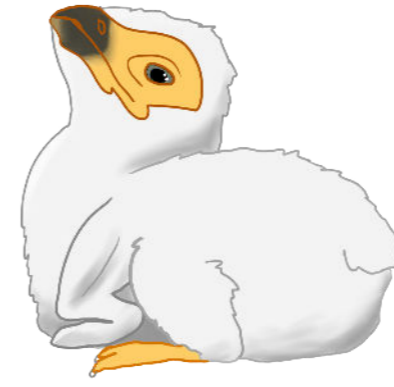
1



Eggs

Female lays 1-2 egg, rarely two. Eggs are white to very pale bluish-green, elongated ovals with chalky texture. Eggs are incubated for 40-46 days.

2



Newly Hatched

Chicks are covered in greyish-white down with yellow facial skin and legs. Their bills are straight with only a slight hook on the maxilla. Their head is very large and may appear too big for their body.

7 Days

Grey second down appears. The bare facial skin is greenish-yellow with some orange on the base of the bill.



3

3 Weeks

Second down complete. The crest and ear covert feathers become visible through the down. Facial skin becomes pale-orange, with grey eyes. Crest extends from nape to down back of neck. Chicks are able to feed themselves, regurgitate pellets, and reverse to edge of nest to defecate.



4

5



6 Weeks

Can self-feed, but still dependent on food brought by adults and on water regurgitated by adults up to day 63.

6



66 Days

Nearly fully feathered, except for some down protruding on their shoulders, flanks and back of legs. The primary feathers extend past the secondary feathers. They have pink-orange legs and orange-yellow facial skin. Chicks are able to stand for short periods.

64 - 105 Days

The chicks leave the nest and are known as fledglings. They are fully feathered by day 76 and central rectrices are just longer than rest of tail. The chicks may come back to nest to roost or practice flying and kicking. Even though they have left the nest, the chicks are still fed by adults by regurgitation.



7

8



105 Days

Chicks start hunting, but remain partly dependent on adults for food for another 62-105 days.

130 Days

Fully Grown



9

Find out more on the BirdLife South Africa website at birdlife.org.za/events/bird-of-the-year or visit the Facebook page @BirdLifeSouthAfrica
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Photo Reference: Dawie de Swardt

SOURCES: Dean, WRJ, Ryan PG (eds) Roberts - Birds of Southern Africa (VIIth Ed) Cape Town: The Trustees of the John Voelcker Bird Book Fund. I Hofmeyr SD, Symes CT, Underhill LG (2014) Secretarybird Sagittarius serpentarius Population Trends and Ecology: Insights from South African Citizen Science Data. PLoS ONE 9(5): e96772. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0096772 I Sherman, P. 2007. Sagittarius serpentarius (On-line), Animal Diversity Web. Accessed December 29, 2018 at https://animaldiversity.org/accounts/Sagittarius_serpentarius/ I Whitecross M.A., Retief E.F. and Smit-Robinson H.A. (2018) Dispersal dynamics of juvenile Secretarybirds Sagittarius serpentarius in southern Africa. Ostrich accepted January 2019.

