



Wood Stork

# Wood Stork *(Mycteria americana)*

## Instant ID

- A large white wading bird with a black, featherless head and thick, powerful bill
- Long black legs with orangey-pink feet
- Flies with head and legs straight out, showing distinctive black feathers on wings when in flight
- Juveniles have paler bills than adults and some feathers on neck

## Native Niches

- Found in wetlands such as marshes, tidal flats and swamps
- Nests in colonies (group of a species living together) in trees

## Favorite Foods

- Eats fish, crabs, snakes and other aquatic and marine animals



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## Critter Characteristics

- Only stork in North America, it is related to ibises and vultures
- Other names include wood ibis, ironhead, preacher bird and flinthead
- Fishes by touch, so frequents pools with densely packed prey
- Avoids breeding during periods of heavy rain
- Colonies over alligator habitat have fewer chicks eaten by climbing predators
- Often seen wading in water with bills partially submerged

## Population Protection

- The pesticide DDT and habitat loss caused storks to be listed as an endangered species
- Wood storks benefit from protecting and restoring wetlands