

FEATURE - SN_SQUABBLING_STORKS_08



Reference

SON-SN_SQUABBLING_STORKS_08

Title

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Caption

These storks use their beaks as weapons while squabbling over feeding grounds at a waterhole. The pair of yellow-billed storks were spotted at Long Pool in the Mana Pools National Park, Zimbabwe.

56 year old Nick Dale said, "The birds all have their separate mini territories at the pool and squabble when trying to chase another away from a good spot."

"They spend a lot of time feeding in the shallows, walking around and sweeping their beaks in the water to find food, swallowing any fish they catch in one."

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(FOTO: DUKAS/SOLENT NEWS) *** Local Caption *** Qs for Storks -

Are yellow-billed storks common to see here? Yes, although there are more great egrets and grey herons at Long Pool.

Can you describe what is happening in these images? Why are they fighting? The birds all had their separate mini 'territories', and if they squabbled, it was because one was trying to chase another away from a good spot.

Can you give us an insight into the moments leading up to this as well as directly after? Yellow-billed storks spend a lot of time feeding in the shallows, walking around and sweeping their beaks in the water to find fish and other aquatic animals to eat. If they catch fish, they swallow them whole. How were you able to capture these images? I was lying down beside Long Pool, resting my camera on the ground to get to eye level and using a long lens to get a shallow depth of field, creating a blurred background so that the birds stood out. When they started fighting, I boosted my shutter speed to 1/3200 of a second to freeze the action

Qs for both sets -

When and where were these shots taken? The papers often ask for specific dates and locations

and we would need to be able to provide this information upon request. The storks were at Long Pool in Mana Pools National Park, Zimbabwe. The leopard was quite close to Goliath Camp, where I was
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