



Lappet-faced Vultures eating seals in the Skeleton Coast Park

On 2 February 2006 Mark Boorman, John Glendinning, Liz Komen, Tivon Komen, Barbara Paterson and John Paterson saw five Lappet-faced Vultures *Torgos tracheliotos* feeding on a Cape fur seal (Southern African fur seal, *Arctocephalus pusillus*) carcass at Cape Fria, Skeleton Coast Park, Namibia. They were about 150 m from the beach. According to Peter Bridgeford this is

the first record of Lappet-faced Vultures feeding on these seals. In about 1994, Cape fur seal carcasses were taken to the vulture restaurant at Ganab. The vultures there were usually fed on donkeys and Mountain Zebras *Equus zebra hartmannae* and the strange, dark carcasses were not eaten. There is potentially a large source of food for vultures along the coast, with the big seal colonies Cape Fria and smaller ones at other places.

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