



Amazing Animals Fact sheets

Storks and Cranes

Storks and cranes are long-legged, wading birds, typically found in marsh areas. Storks and cranes feed on fish, reptiles, amphibians, and insects that they catch using their long heavy bills. Storks are unable to make noises like other birds such as parrots, however cranes make a loud trumpeting call and the male and female birds perform dances during mating season.



Black-necked Stork

The black-necked stork is the only representative of the stork family found in Australia and often referred to as a jabiru. Adults have a striking black and white plumage, with deep red legs and feet. The female has distinctive yellow eyes, while the male eyes are dark. The black-necked stork is very sensitive to human-induced impacts such as altered water levels and the destruction of aquatic vegetation.

Habitat

The black-necked stork is found along the north and east coast of Australia, sometimes as far south as Sydney, but this is not a common occurrence. They inhabit freshwater marshes and wetlands, lakes, pools in open forests, mangroves and large rivers.

Diet

Each bird hunts independently, striding through the shallow water, probing with its large powerful bill as it

goes. The storks are freshwater foragers where their main food is fish, but they may also eat reptiles, frogs, crabs, rodents and even carrion. When hunting active prey a bird may run a few seemingly disjointed steps and catch the food with a rapid thrust of the bill, swallowing with a backward jerk of the head.

Breeding

The black-necked stork breeds any time from March until October. They build a substantial nest of large bulky sticks up to 1.8m wide, lined with reeds and may be located often up 25m above the ground or near the waters edge. The black-necked stork usually has between 2-4 white eggs which both parents incubate.

Australia Zoo Black-necked Stork profiles



Juliette

Juliette is the long, red-legged female black-necked stork. With her beautiful big yellow eyes she is a stunning specimen and a real head-turner, who often gets looked up and down! Juliette has been at the Zoo since 2003. She was born in the wild, but fell from her nest and badly injured her right leg. She was rescued and hand-raised from a young age and would not have survived in the wild.

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