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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.

Brolga

There is perhaps no more stately Australian bird than the pale grey, long-legged brolga. When dancing, brolgas line up roughly opposite each other before starting movements: they step forwards on the long, stilt legs with wings half-open and shaking. Bowing and bobbing their heads to advance and retire. Now and then the bird will stop and, throwing its head back, trumpet wildly. They are the only crane endemic to the Australian region and tend to migrate between breeding and non-breeding sites.

Habitat

Brolgas are found in open swamplands of coastal and sub coastal tropical Australia, ranging from the eastern interior to a small local population through the Murray Darling Basin and western Victoria.

Diet

Brolgas feed on the tubers of sedges, which they dig up from underground with their bills. They also wil eat grain, mollusks and insects.

Breeding

The brolga breeds between September and December in southern areas and February to June in the north. In the wet seasons, brolgas return to their breeding grounds in shallow swamplands and space themselves out in pairs to nest. They build a platform of dry grass and sedges about 1.5m diameter. Usually two cream eggs with reddish markings are laid and both sexes incubate them for 28-30 days.

Australia Zoo Brolga profiles

Marilyn

Marilyn is a gorgeous sheila with a slender build and long legs that seem to go on forever! Most of the time she is an absolute sweetie with a pleasant nature, but come tucker time she transforms; something like Jeckyll and Hyde! Yep, Marilyn is imprinted bird, so when she is hungry she is not backwards in letting you know and if you check her beak out, you can see that she is certainly capable of giving you a hurry up!

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