



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 advance and retire. Now and then the bird will stop and, throwing its head back trumpet wildly. They sometimes leap into the air a meter or so and parachute back to the ground using their broad wings.

The Brolga is sensitive to habitat impacts and changes such as loss of shallow marshes, which they use for breeding and altered flows of waterways. Populations have been significantly reduced since European settlement. 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 Murray Darling Basin and Western Victoria.

Diet

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

Breeding

The Brolga breeds between September and December in the south 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 Jeckle and Hyde! Yep, Marilyn is another 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! We do still have a soft spot for her though - we just have to keep our wits about us.

Visit us: www.australiazoo.com/our-animals/amazing-animals