



Wattled Crane

(Bugeranus Carunculatus)

DESCRIPTION

A large grey, white and black crane with large wattles under their chin edged with red. This red extends onto the top of a light brown bill. Their eyes are orange. They have a wingspan of between 2.3 - 2.6m. Females are slightly smaller than males. Weigh between 6 - 9kg and are 1.5 - 1.8m tall. Tallest of all three species. They are monogamous and can live up to 30 years in the wild and 40 years in captivity.

HABITAT

They are wetland dependant and forage in wetlands, farmlands and grasslands. They roost in the wetlands at night.

BREEDING

They are winter breeders, from April to approx. October. Will lay 1 - 2 eggs, but will only rear one chick. Eggs are laid 3 days apart and incubate for 33-36 days. Nests are built from reeds and mud in wetlands.

FOOD

They are omnivores, mainly eating rhizomes and tubers of sedges and waterlilies but will also eat grubs and small amphibians if need be.

THREATS

Jackal, serval, mongoose, power lines, habitat loss due to mining, forestry, crop farming, overgrazing, draining/damming of wetlands, industrial development and poisonings.



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