

# Brolga

## *Grus rubicunda*

**Appearance:** Large grey crane with a distinct red head and a dark dewlap under the chin – characteristics which can be seen in this photo (© Linda Wright). The legs are dark grey and extend behind the tail when the bird is in flight. The males and females are similar in appearance.

**Size:** 120cm with a wing span over 2 metres.

**Diet:** They feed on vegetable matter such as tubers, grains and grasses, as well as some insects and small animals, and are therefore classified as omnivorous.

**Where found:** Brolgas generally live in flocks on large open wetlands, grassy plains, coastal mudflats and irrigated pastures.

**Population numbers:** Widespread in northern Australia but are listed as vulnerable in New South Wales.

**Other key information:** Are solitary breeders in the wet season. Nests are made of sticks usually positioned on marshy ground. Two eggs are incubated by



## DID YOU KNOW?

### INTERESTING FACT # 1

These graceful birds are one of our larger species of bird and are renowned for their spectacular dance and courtship rituals.

### INTERESTING FACT # 2

The Brolga is important to the culture of the indigenous people.

## WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP THIS SPECIES SURVIVE?

Our wetlands provide critical habitat for many migratory or nomadic species, and is one of the primary reasons why these areas should be preserved. Indeed, protection of the natural wetland system, including both temporary and permanent inundation of freshwater, intertidal and estuarine areas is important for most of our wildlife.

Private landholders can participate in wetland

recovery programmes that provide advice and/or assistance to rehabilitate areas with natural water catchment.

Birds and nests should not be disturbed. Predators can impinge on nesting success, so dogs, pigs and feral animals should be kept clear of nesting sites.

Care should be taken to prevent pollutants entering wetland areas.