

# Grey Crowned Crane

*Balearica regulorum*



**Range:** Central to South Africa

**Size:** ♂: 61-74cm (36in)  
♀: 61-74cm (36 in)

**Weight:** ♂: 180-220g (6.4-8oz)  
♀: 180-220g (6.4-7.8 oz)

**Wing:** ♂: 61cm (43 in)  
♀: 61 cm (43 in)

**Habitat:** humid forest near streams

**Incubation:** 27 days

**Eggs:** 2-3

**Fledge:** 8-9 weeks

**Sexual maturity:** 12-24 month

**Nest:** Open nest in trees

**Social:** solitary

**Breeding:** monogamous

**Movement :** generally sedentary

**Food:** crustaceans, insects and fish

**IUCN:** Least Concern

**Subspecies :** 2

**Longevity:** captive: 24 yrs

**Wild:** n/a

**Order:** Gruiformes **Family:** Gruidae

There are two subspecies of the Grey-crowned Crane. The Crested Crane (*B. r. gibbericeps*) lives in east Africa while the South African Crown Crane (*B. r. regulorum*) lives from Angola to South Africa.

Along with its near relative the black crowned crane, the grey crowned crane possesses a grasping hind toe. This allows these two species to roost in trees, unique among cranes.

The grey crowned crane is an omnivore feeding on small vertebrates, insects, seeds and grains. They forage for insects by either stamping their feet or following hoofstock and picking off the insects as they are flushed from the grass.

Habitat destruction and capture are the two most dangerous threats to the population. The population of both species of crowned cranes have declined sharply due to the trade to captive facilities. Until recently there has been little regulation in the capture and trade of these species. Due to their unique looks they have been highly sought after for both zoo and private collections. Historically crowned cranes have not been bred in numbers large enough in captivity to keep up with demand. Regional zoo associations like AZA have developed breeding programs and reduced removal from the wild. In 2013 CITES suspended all trade in both species of crowned cranes until a reliable census can be deducted.

