

# Wattled Crane

*Bugeranus carunculatus*



Range: Central to South Africa

Size: :176 cm(72 in)

: 176 cm(72 in)

Weight : : 7.8 kg ( 16.5 lbs)

: 7.8 kg (16.5 lbs)

Wing: : 230-260 cm (90- 102 in)

: 230-260 cm (90- 102 in)

Habitat: Flood plains

Incubation: 33-36 days

Eggs: 1

Fledge: 12-18 weeks

Sexual maturity: 12-24 months

Nest: Circular on ground

Social: Pairs

Breeding: monogamous for life

Movement :generally sedentary

Food: Aquatic vegetation and insects

IUCN: Vulnerable

Subspecies : monotypic

Longevity: captive: 30 yrs Wild: n/a

## Order: Gruiformes Family: Gruidae

Like most cranes the social structure of the Wattled Crane is a breeding pair and its young. However during non-breeding season flocks of up to ten individuals may be seen. This species is more dependent on the wetlands than any other species in the family. Although wattled cranes can be found in eleven countries the largest concentration is in the Okavango Delta in Botswana. Therefore it is much more susceptible to changes to the river systems in the area. Construction of dams for hydroelectric plants is a major threat to the species. This species is protected under the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds

Wattled cranes forage in shallow water. Much more herbivorous than other cranes the main food is tubers. Aquatic insects are eaten to supplement the diet.