

White-naped Crane

Grus vipio



Order: Gruiformes Family: Gruidae

The White-naped Crane is a migratory crane from east Asia. It breeds in Mongolia, China and Russia. It winters on the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

The White-naped Crane feeds on seeds, roots and tubers of several aquatic plants. They also take insects and amphibians. Outside the breeding season, this species consumes waste grain, seeds and tubers. Rice and other cereal grains are given at feeding stations in Izumi, Japan.

The crane digs into the soil with its long bill, to reach roots and tubers. It also hunts some animal preys such as rodents, and feeds on grain. The bird is fairly territorial when feeding and digging.

The cranes are threatened by habitat loss with drainage of wetland for agriculture expansion. The breeding grounds in Mongolia are threatened by over-grazing and human disturbances. Steppe fires also destroy nesting sites and can decimate a colony. Human developments on the breeding grounds are the main threat for these birds. Several protected areas have been established in Russia, Mongolia, China, N Korea and Japan, and the feeding-stations in Japan have resulted in an increase of the wintering populations of this country.

Range: Mongolia, China, Russia,
Korean Peninsula and Japan

Size: :123 cm(48 in)

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Weight : : 5.6 kg (12 lbs)

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

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Habitat: Wetlands and rice paddies

Incubation: 28-32 days

Eggs: 2

Fledge: 10-11 weeks

Sexual maturity: 36-48 months

Nest: mound of sedges

Social: Pairs

Breeding: monogamous for life

Movement : migratory

Food: Small vertebrates and insects

IUCN: Vulnerable

Subspecies : monotypic

Longevity: captive: 40 yrs Wild: n/a

