

Brolga

Grus rubicunda

Status

The Brolga is a threatened species in Victoria. There are about 700 living in south-west Victoria.



Description

The Brolga is tall and slender bird from the crane family which grow to about one metre tall. They have a two-metre wing span which they use in their unique mating dance. With wings spread and facing each other, Brolgas jump and prance about in front of each other often making loud trumpeting calls in a bid to attract attention.

Habitat

To breed Brolgas need shallow freshwater meadows and marshes most often found on private property. They build a mound from vegetation in the wetland.

During the non-breeding period from late December to early May, the Brolga's habit comprises deep freshwater marshes, permanent open water with

vegetation, and feeding areas in pasture, seed and stubble crops.

Threats

The main threat to Brolga's is the loss of wetland habitats through drainage and drought, while the Brolga chicks and eggs are also a target for foxes.

What can you do?

Protect freshwater wetlands on properties and encourage native vegetation around the wetland. Control foxes in spring when Brolga eggs and chicks are vulnerable.

Record any Brolga sightings to the Department of Sustainability and Environment and note whether they are flocking together, nesting, or have chicks.