

# Sulphur-crested cockatoo

**Scientific Name:** *Cacatua galerita*

**Class:** Aves

**Order:** Psittaciformes

**Family:** Cacatuidae



The Sulphur-crested cockatoo is about 17 – 22 inches long. The plumage is white, while the underwing and tail are tinged yellow. The expressive crest is yellow. The bill is black and the legs are grey, with the eye-ring whitish- to blue. The Sulphur-crested cockatoo is found in wooded habitats on the islands of Indonesia, and in New Guinea and Australia. Locally, these birds can be so numerous that they are sometimes considered pests. They are known to be highly intelligent.

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## Range

Australia and New Guinea

## Habitat

Forest, woodland, mangroves, open country, agricultural land, and suburban areas

## Gestation

30 days

## Litter

2 – 3 eggs

## Behavior

Their distinctive raucous call can be very loud; it is adapted to travel through the forest environments in which they live. They are very curious, as well as intelligent. They have adapted very well to European settlement in Australia and live in many urban areas. When a group are on the ground searching for food, there will always be a few in the trees to watch for predators.

## Reproduction

The Sulphur-crested cockatoo is a seasonal breeder in Australia. In southern Australia the season is from August to January whereas in northern Australia the season is from May to September. The nest is a bed of woodchips in a hollow tree. Both parents incubate the eggs and raise the nestlings. The nestling period is between 9 – 12 weeks, and the young fledglings remain with their parent for a number of months.

## Wild Diet

Seeds, herbs, wheat, roots, nuts, flowers, and berries