

Galah

Scientific Name: *Eolophus roseicapilla*

Class: Aves

Order: Psittaciformes

Family: Cacatuidae



The back, wings and tail are light gray. The head, neck and under-sides are pink. The male has an iris this is almost black, while that of the female is reddish-brown. The beak is a light horn color. Length is about 13-1/2 inches. Galahs usually move in flocks of varying size, and often these are large, containing hundreds of birds. Also known as a Rose-breasted Cockatoo. Because of the damage they do to crops, the Galah is not a protected species. They are extremely popular cage-birds, and often become proficient talkers.

Range

Most of Australia

Habitat

Savanna woodlands, open grasslands, forested areas and croplands

Gestation

Incubation: About 30 days

Litter

Clutch: 2 to 5 eggs

Behavior

Galahs usually move in flocks of varying size, and often these are large, containing hundreds of birds. They are found mostly in open, lightly timbered country. They sometimes engage in aerial acrobatics during a rainstorm, and at sunset before settling down to roost. They feed mostly on the ground and consume a wide variety of fare. They are very noisy and fly wildly about. Breeding pairs remain as a unit within the flock. Young birds fly very well, but their landings are described as the "crash-landing" variety. They mate for life. The natural call of the Galah is harsh and grating, but in captivity they are silent most of the time.

Reproduction

The natural breeding season lasts from July to December in southern Australia, and in the tropical north the bird's nest after the wet season, from about February to June. The usual nesting site is a hollow limb or a hole in a tree, standing near water. Both sexes incubate in turns. The eggs hatch after about 30 days, and the young are fed by both parents. They leave the nest about six weeks after hatching and are fed by their parents for a further two or three weeks. After 6 to 8 weeks fledglings have to fend for themselves. Many do not make it. Only about 10 out of 100 survive to breed. Their first 2 to 3 years are spent in flocks of other immature birds.

Wild Diet

Seeds, weeds, vegetable matter, fruit grain