

# Blue Crane

*Anthropoides paradisea*



**Range:** South Africa

**Size:** ♂: 117cm (48 in)

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**Weight:** ♂: 5.1 kg (11 lbs)

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**Wing:** ♂: 61cm (60-72 in)

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**Habitat:** grasslands

**Incubation:** 27 days

**Eggs:** 2-3

**Fledge:** 8-9 weeks

**Sexual maturity:** 24-36 months

**Nest:** on ground lined with stones

**Social:** Pairs

**Breeding:** monogamous

**Movement:** altitudinal  
migratory

**Food:** grasses, seeds, tubers and  
Insects

**IUCN:** Vulnerable

**Subspecies:** Monotypic

**Longevity:** captive: 24 yrs Wild:  
n/a

## Order: Gruiformes Family: Gruidae

The Blue Crane, also known as the Stanley is found only in the southern part of Africa. Over 99% of its population is found in South Africa. It is the national bird of South Africa.

The population is declining. The major threats are direct poisoning and habitat loss. Collisions with power lines are increasing and land being used for agriculture is destroying this species habitat.

The Blue Crane is partially social, less so during the breeding season. There is a strict hierarchy in groups, with the larger adult males being dominant. They overlap in range with 3 other crane species but interactions with these species and

other "large wader" type birds are not known. They are relentlessly aggressive to various other animals during the nesting season, attacking non-predatory species such as cattle, tortoises, plovers and even sparrows.