

SARUS CRANE & BROLGA ID GUIDE



SARUS CRANE

ANTIGONE ANTIGONE GILLAE

Red skin covers head, upper neck and throat with sparse black feathers on neck. Iris orange, body generally grey in both adults and juveniles. In juveniles the neck is still feathered and this area including the head is often brownish. Overall, slightly larger than Brolga with pink legs and lacking dewlap under the throat.



BROLGA

ANTIGONE RUBICUNDA

Red doesn't extend onto the upper third of the neck, legs are grey to black, but this is harder to see in low light as they fly. Bulge under chin known as a 'dewlap' but not always visible in flight and missing in younger birds. Juveniles again mostly grey plumage with a brownish tinge to the head matching patterning of the adults.



GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Both are tall, elegant, slow-moving grey birds with long legs and bill and a broad wingspan. Their distinctive calls are known as trumpeting or bugling. Sarus Cranes are slightly larger (though slightly lighter in weight) and appear greyer with extensive red on the head and neck. Sarus legs are pink to reddish. Brolgas appear paler grey, have much less red on the head, blackish legs and a dark pouch or dewlap bulging under the throat.

If you have any questions please contact Edward Bell via email at edbelljsy@icloud.com

IMAGE CREDITS

Thanks to ozcranes.net for providing some of the information. Sarus Crane head shot - Martin Willis. Sarus in flight - Tim Nevard. Brolga head shot - Mel Christie. Brolga and Sarus in flight - Cameron De Jong.