

Galah

Cacatua roseicapilla

What do they look like?

The Galah is approximately 35 cm from head to tail and can be easily identified by its rose-pink head, neck and underparts, with paler pink crown, and grey back, wings and under tail. Birds from the west of Australia have comparatively paler plumage compared to birds in the east.



The voice of a Galah is a distinctive high-pitched screech, 'chi-chi'.

Where do they live?



The Galah is one of the most abundant and familiar of the Australian parrots and is found in large flocks in a variety of timbered habitats, usually near water. It occurs over most of Australia, including some offshore islands, and is becoming more abundant around areas of human habitation. The growth in population is largely a result of increasing availability of food and water. Escaped aviary birds have also contributed to these numbers.

What do they eat?

Galahs feed on seeds, mostly from the ground. Seeds of grasses and crops are eaten, making these birds agricultural pests in some areas. Galahs may travel large distances in search of favourable feeding grounds.

Breeding and Lifecycle

Galahs form permanent pair bonds, although a bird will take a new partner if the other one dies. The breeding season is variable, but it is mainly from February to July in the north and July to December in the south. The nest is a tree hollow or similar location, lined with leaves. Both sexes incubate the eggs and care for three or four young. There is a high chick mortality in Galahs, with up to 50% dying in their first six months.

Galahs have been recorded breeding with other members of the cockatoo family, both in the wild and captivity. These include the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo.

