

# White-bellied Go-away Bird

*Criniferoides leucogaster*

**Class:** *Aves*

**Order:** *Cucliformes*

**Family:** Musophagidae

## Characteristics:

White-bellied Go-away birds have three different feather colors. White is the predominating color the underbelly and the inner, non-flight feathers of the wings. White also appears as a horizontal stripe on its tail feathers. The rest of the body is predominantly gray with the flight and tail feathers black. The bird is on average 19 inches (50 cm) long and weighs a little under half a pound (480 grams). The male and female bird are different in size (the larger being the female) and in bill color. The bill of a male is gray while the female's bill is green ([Beauty of Birds](#)).

## Behavior:

White-bellied Go-away birds are weak fliers but are adept climbers. When they do fly, they often glide or make a swooping motion. They often live in non-migratory groups. They communicate within these groups via different calls including alarm calls.

## Reproduction:

Two to three eggs are laid and incubated by the mom in a nest made of twigs for 21 – 24 days. After the chicks hatch, the chicks are raised by more than just their parents but also others of their family flock. It appears that this group mentality is essential for the rearing of these chicks since parents by themselves have a lower success rate. The chicks will leave the nest within 10 to 12 days ([Riehl 2008](#)).

## Diet:

Wild: Fruits, leaves and seed pods

Zoo: varying types of fruits, leafy vegetables and seed

## Conservation:

The birds seem to be abundant in their range. The only threat (which is currently minimal) is human encroachment.

## FYI:

-The “go-away” portion of their name is due to their unique call that sounds like its telling an annoyance to “[go away](#).” It also has another call that sounds like “[gwaa](#)” which is heard when it is surprised or feels threatened.

- These birds can give alerts to not only other go-away birds but also other species via “[eaves dropping](#)”.



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## **Range & Habitat:**

Open Country and Savanna



**Lifespan:** up to 28 years in captivity, unknown in the wild.

## **Special Adaptations:**

- Group rearing mentality
- A toe 90 degrees from front toes.

## **IUCN Conservation Status:**

Least Concern

