
Rose-breasted Cockatoo (Galah Cockatoo)

Eolophus roseicapilla

Class: *Aves*

Order: *Psittaciformes*

Family: *Cacatuidae*

Characteristics: L. 35-38 cm; wt 300-435 gms. Females smaller. Gray back and flight feathers; pale pink crown; rose-red neck and underparts. Bone-colored beak; gray legs. Male: dark brown iris. Female: pink iris. Color of juveniles duller than adults. A highly intelligent, social and highly adaptable animal.

Behavior: Bold and loud. Rely heavily on sense of sight. Highly social and long-lived. Bonded pairs have strong lifelong bonds with their partners. Preen facial feathers to show affection. Not highly territorial and often share roosting trees and food sources though minor squabbles frequently occur. Flocks congregate and forage on foot for food in open grassy areas. Communication consists of a high-pitched, splintered identifying call "chill chill; " harsher screeches when threatened, fighting or just having fun; and soft, muffled calls to initiate close contact.

Reproduction: Bonded pairs separate from flock and nest in tree cavities where a clutch of 2-5 white eggs is incubated 25 days by both parents. Fed with regurgitated food, chicks leave the nest about 49 days after hatching; reaching maturity in 4 years. Young have grayish plumage and a grey periophthalmic ring (naked area around their eyes) that fades as they approach maturity.

Diet:

Wild: grasses, herbs, seeds, nuts, berries, roots, green shoots, leaf buds, cereal crops, sunflower seeds; insects and larvae during breeding.

Zoo: Cockatoo pellets, chopped fruit and vegetables, sunflower seeds (for training).

Conservation: Most common of Australia cockatoos. Thriving due to expansion of agriculture and permanent water sources plus popularity as a pet. Deaths occur mostly from cars, cats and shooting by farmers who consider them pests.

FYI: The term "Galah," from native Aborigine, is considered derogatory Australian slang, synonymous with 'fool' or 'idiot.'

Considered pests in Australia. Less common outside of Australia.

A galah in captivity will often form a bond with other pets such as a dog or cat.



Range & Habitat: Mainland Australia and Tasmania in open habitats and urban areas such as semi-desert, plains, open woodland, farmlands and fields.



Lifespan: up to 80 years in captivity, 30 years in the wild.

Special Adaptations: flourished by taking advantage of forest clearing and access to stock watering points.

IUCN Conservation Status:
LC (Least Concern)

