

<http://galah.galahs.com.au>

ARTICLES 011 – 020

The Australia Galah

10 Referenced Articles

Full Text

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ARTICLE 011

GALAH

Also known as the "rosy-headed cockatoo" or Rose-breasted Cockatoo in America. Its scientific name is *Cacatua roseicapilla*. Originally this bird resided in the arid dry interior but now mainly due to European settlement and their introduced cereal crops, the galah is found all over Australia in small and large flocks.

Description

The galah is a grey and pink cockatoo, very active and noisy with a shrill call. Their faces have a pink eye ring and the difference between males and females is their eye colours. The mature females is a "coppery" red whilst the mature males is darker.

Location Habitat

As previously stated they are found all over Australia from open plains (grass or crops), to woodlands, shrubs and even suburban parks.

Feeding

Galahs are a seed feeding bird feeding on both native plant seeds, fruit & nut seeds as well as cereal crops of wheat, oats etc, foraging for the seeds on the ground. They do on rare occasions also eat small insects. They will travel a fair distance from their "roost" in search of food. Farmers consider them a pest because of the damage they do to crops.

Social Habits

Galahs stick together in flocks numbering up to a couple of hundred. They will though in pairs leave the flock to nest. They are not in the main a territorial bird often sharing roosting trees with others.

Breeding

Breeding times vary upon their location but generally up North it is February to July, and down south from July to December. They nest in a tree cavity and produce on average 3 to 4 eggs which take about a month to incubate. Often the tree is marked by removing a patch of bark near the nest, thought to be a message to other galahs that that hollow is already being used. Both parents care for the young which "fledge" after 2 months. The young's "down" (soft early small furry feathers) are pink.

<http://home.mira.net/~areadman/galah.htm>

ARTICLE 012

Diary Entry: Galah

In Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary, BRISEBANE, QLD, Australia, Feb. 25, 1997.

We (my wife and I) had throught Major Mitchell's Cockatoo called "MOMOIRO-INKO" which means "Pink Parrot" in Japanese. For the bird called Pink Parrot in English is not a Galah but a Major Mitchell's Cockatoo. Returning to Japan, we found our mistake in bird guide books. As is apparent from the photo, Galahs are a deep pink in color. (I would not call it pink in my opinion).

Note

Science name: *Cacatua (Eolophus) roseicapilus*

English name: Galah (Rose-breasted Cockatoo)

From a Japanese couples, *Diary of their Australian Holiday.*
(Some of their gramma has been corrected)

ARTICLE 013

The Big Galah at Kimba, South Australia

A statue of a big galah was built at Kimba in South Australia. This point marks the halfway point between the east and west coast.

ARTICLE 014

Galah

Eolophus roseicapillus

Identifying Features

Silver-grey back with pink head and underparts.

Short grey legs and pale pink crown are similar in both sexes.

Measures 14 inches in length.

Male's iris is brown; female's is red.

Range and Habitat

Found in Australia except in the extreme southwest and parts of Tasmania. Prefers open grasslands and savannah woodlands. Diet Seeds, grains and bulbous roots. Reproduction Most nesting takes place from August to November. Pairs separate off from larger group during breeding season. Male and female prepare nest in hollow tree hole lined with leafy eucalypt twigs. The birds strip the bark surrounding the nest's entrance. Female lays 2 to 6 white oval eggs.

Did you know?

- The galah is a fast flier and is often seen performing aerial acrobatics in flocks of up to 1,000 birds.
- The galah often remains with the same mate for life.
- A young galah can fly as well as an adult; however, it tends to have crash landings.
- The survival rate among new fledglings is very low. Only 10 out of 100 survive through their first winter. However, those that do survive usually live a long life.
- Parents continue to feed their young for 6 to 8 weeks. While the parents are foraging for food, the young gather together in nearby woodland areas. The young can identify their parent's returning call and will fly back to the nest to be fed.
- The galah is considered a pest to local farmers because of the crop damage the bird often causes.

ARTICLE 015

Scientific name: *Eolophus roseicapillus*

Family: *Cacatuidae*

Order: *Psittaciformes*

Class: *Aves*

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The Galah's size averages about 14 inches (36 cm.) in length and it weighs about 300 to 400 grams. The Galah is considered a very attractive bird to look at due to its beautiful coloration. Most of the bird is a rich dark pink with the forehead, crown, and the back of the neck being a whitish-pink. The back, the wings, and the tail are gray. The lower abdomen, the vent area, the rump, and the secondary and upper tail feathers that cover the bases of the main feathers are whitish gray. The periopthalmic ring, which surrounds the eye, is rose-red and the iris is dark brown. The feet and legs of the Galah are gray and the bill is horn-colored.

DISTRIBUTION and HABITAT:

Prior to the Europeans arriving in Australia, the Galah was restricted to the very dry interior of Australia. Over the past years, it has expanded its range to north of Derby, north-west Western Australia and north throughout the Northern Territory (Caris, 1999). The Galah originally was found at lower elevations. It prefers open habitats, which include semi-desert, plains, open woodland, farmland, grain fields, golf courses, parklands, and grassland with trees in semi-arid zones.

BEHAVIOR:

The Galah is a sedentary bird. It tends to sit around and remains in one area. When Galahs pair off, they form loose groups with other pairs. When they are eating, one bird will keep watch and if disturbed, the entire flock will fly off. This behavior occurs when the Galah is feeding with other types of birds such as the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo. The Galah is unapproachable at that time. It is easier to approach the Galah if the entire flock is made up only of Galahs. During hot midday hours, Galahs rest in trees.

DIET:

Most of the diet of the Galah consists of seeds and other plant material gathered mainly on the ground. It includes grass seeds (button grass, Flinder's grass, Mitchell grass, peppergrass), herbaceous plants and seeds (lamb's quarter, etc.), grain (especially wheat and oats), fruits, berries, nuts, roots, shoots, buds, and some insects and their larvae. During times of drought, seeds of trees (acacias, eucalyptus) are eaten. Galahs also forage for food in flocks. While in these flocks, Galahs use their great numbers to their advantage in locating food resources. Local agriculture suffer losses from these immense hungry flocks.

BREEDING and NESTING:

Galahs rarely reach maturity and breed before the fourth year. Galahs will look for and find suitable mates from February to July in the north and July to December in the south. Once paired, they separate themselves from the flock and begin building a nest. Usual nesting sites are tree cavities that vary from 2 to 20 inches in height. Parents chew bark and rotten wood away from the nest entrance and line the bottom with eucalyptus leaves. A clutch is made up of two to five oval white eggs about 1.39 x 1.04 inches in size. Incubation lasts 30 days and both parents brood the eggs and care for the young. Galah fledglings are moved to a creche that may be about a mile away from the nest. There they wait with other fledglings while their parents forage for food. Young Galahs become independent about five to six weeks after leaving the nest. The Galah is abundant and widely dispersed over Australia's interior. It is found in the wild in immense numbers, probably ranging in the multi thousands. The Galah is not considered a valuable bird. Agriculturists of Australia consider them to be a pest, especially in the grain-producing districts. The Galah is probably on the increase and settling in new areas.

WILD POPULATION:

Galahs are abundant in the wild.

Thanks to:

Mahalo to Leeward Community College's Zoology 101 Class for their contribution
(Accessed 11/05/2001)

Contributed by: Francine M. Fujiwara

This information submitted as an assignment for Zoology 101 at Leeward Community College

Zoology 101 Home Page

ARTICLE 016

Eolophus roseicapillus
(Vieillot)

Other Names:

Rose-breasted Cockatoo, Roseate Cockatoo, Willock Cockatoo.

DESCRIPTION:

The general plumage of the Galah is dark pink. The forehead, the crown, the lores and the nape are whitish-pink. The back, the wings and the tail are grey. The lower abdomen, the vent area, the secondary-coverts, the rump and upper tail-coverts are whitish-grey. The eye ring is rose-red and the iris is dark brown. The feet of the Galah are grey and the bill is horn-coloured.

LIFE SPAN:

Living in captivity the Galah can become 70 to 80 years of age . In the wild the average Galah will not reach the age of twenty years. A pair of Galahs will bond for life and will be capable of breeding for up to 40 years. This meant that the offspring of one pair of Galahs became 120 birds after all their breeding years.

SIZE:

Length about 35 cm (14 "), weight about 300 to 400 grams

SEXING:

Female Galah resembles the male but the iris is red. The immature Galahs have a duller plumage. The iris in both sexes is brown. Their eye ring is grey, tinged with a little pink.

SUBSPECIES:

The common subspecies in aviculture and in the wild through much of Australia is *C. r. roseicapillus*.

A second subspecies, *C. r. assimilis*, is found in much of Western Australia and is distinguished by a paler grey body colour.

NATURAL OCCURRENCE:

The Galah is one of the most widespread of Australia's parrots, being found in all states. It is only absent from the most arid country and from the tip of Cape York. It prefers open grasslands and woodland, is a common species in the cities and towns, and has adapted well to farmed land.

The species is gregarious, often forming flocks of several hundreds, although when foraging for food these large flocks will often split into small groups, coming together again at the evening roost site.

Feeding is often done on the ground and their food in the wild is dominantly seed, nuts and fruit, and they can cause major damage to cultivated grain crops. For this reason the bird is regarded as a pest species in many parts of its range, and licensed culling is permitted in certain states.

The breeding season extends from July to December in the south and February to July in the tropical north. A nesting hollow is lined with leaves and twigs carried into the nest, and usually 3 or 4 eggs are laid. Incubation is shared by both parents over a 30 day period and the babies leave the nest at about 8 weeks old.

VOICE:

High-pitched, splintered " chill chill " and harsher screeches

AVICULTURE:

The Galah, like the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, is commonly kept as a pet bird, but is rarely bred in aviaries in Australia due to the depressed effect on the price of any progeny. Those breeders prepared to put the effort into genuinely hand rearing Galahs for the companion market will receive a reasonable price for the young Galah.

Galahs are an extremely popular cage and companion parrot and the hand reared birds make affectionate companions and often will become proficient talkers. They are not as noisy as the larger Sulphur-crested Cockatoo.

One of our Galah hens pure like a cat when ever we go near her, and looks for affection at every opportunity.

Like other members of the Cockatoo group, an aviary at least 5 metres by 1.2 metres by 2 metres high is required, constructed of materials to withstand the inevitable chewing that will occur.

A nest box around a 60 to 90 cm deep and about 30 cm in diameter should be supplied. An essential requirement is to keep a constant supply of fresh branches of eucalyptus and other native trees available to avoid boredom. A supply of leaves that can be used to line the nest box is also essential.

Mate aggression can be a problem if older birds are introduced to each other but seems to be less of a problem with birds that are paired up at a young age. Another problem with breeding birds is that they seem to be very clumsy, and broken eggs are

by no means uncommon. There appears to be no easy solution to this, although a nest box mounted at an angle or a nest box with a bottom chamber off to one side, so that the parents do not jump down onto the eggs, may be helpful. Alternatively patience is useful, since the problem seems to decrease with age.

The diet needs to be varied, balanced and interesting. A variety of seeds such as wheat, hulled oats, canary, and some grey striped sunflower, should be provided as well as a wide range of fresh vegetables and fruit. Animal protein is also beneficial, given by way of chicken or chop bones, mealworms or other grubs.

A tendency of the species to become overweight should be guarded against, and there are arguments for the use of pellets rather than seed for the Galah. The encouragement of flying by the birds is also helpful. Galahs have a tendency to prefer to climb around the aviary rather than fly, and so careful siting of perches and food dishes can help to ensure the birds have to do some flying.

MUTATIONS:

A lutino Galah is becoming well established in Australian aviaries, while cinnamon, silver, and grey and white mutations are also known to exist.

AVICULTURE:

The Galah is a noisy, very hardy parrot. Because it is a hard chewer, the Galah must be provided with a regular supply of fresh branches with leaves. Regular worming is also essential as birds enjoy being on the ground.

HOUSING:

The aviary should measure 6 x 1 x 2 m (18 x 3 x 6 feet) and made of a metal construction only. The Galah must be protected from frost in winter. An inside area with outside flight is ideal. A thick-walled, hardwood roosting box 40 x 40 x 90 cm (16 x 16 x 36 inches) or tree stump is also necessary.

DIET:

Their diet: sunflower, pumpkin seed, small seed mix (safflower, millet, hemp, oats, wheat), pine and other nuts. They also need plenty of fruit and vegetables, especially apple and peas. Avocado is not to be fed to any parrot due to the harmful effect and possible death that may occur. Green food is always appreciated.

They like small quantities of stone fruit and sprouted seed. The Galahs scatter some seed on the ground.

BREEDING IN AVICULTURE:

Breeding is regularly achieved. The Galahs will start breeding on their third year and sometimes even on their second year. You will have to provide the Galahs with branches with leaves for nesting material. A partially block entrance to the nest box made of softwood. The Galahs will be chewing on it, this stimulates breeding. The clutch usually consists of 2 eggs up to a maximum of 5 eggs. The incubation period is 30 days and the fledging period 8 weeks. The galahs have to be provided with more animal protein before and during the breeding.

PET POTENTIAL:

The Galah can make an excellent pet, with even wild caught young birds capable of becoming affectionate and friendly birds. They will however often become a little unpredictable when mature, and should never be allowed to spend time on a shoulder.

They are extremely playful and intelligent birds, which, like most cockatoos, need constant stimulation with toys to play with, and objects to chew, to keep them from getting bored.

They are not generally noisy, apart from early morning and evening, although some are the exception to the rule. Both sexes can become good talkers, possibly with the males being somewhat better, however their talking ability is not usually on a par with either Sulphur-crested Cockatoos or the Corellas.

EGGS:

The Galah Egg measures 35.3 x 26.5 mm (1.39 x 1.04 inch)

Is broadly elliptical to elliptical-ovate white in colour with very slight gloss.

www.parrot-haven-aviary.com.au

ARTICLE 017

Order & Family	Description	Clutch Size	Egg Size
Psittaciformes Cacatuidae	Elliptical to spherical, smooth and slightly glossy. Colour is white, no markings.	2 to 5 eggs	35 x 23 mm

Range: Interior of Australia.

The Provincial Museum of Alberta
12845-102 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5N 0M6, Canada
(780) 453-9100

URL: www.pma.edmonton.ab.ca
Last Review/Update - January 11 2000

ARTICLE 018

galah

English (Australian)

SYLLABICATION:

ga·lah

PRONUNCIATION:

g-l ä´

NOUN :

1. An Australian cockatoo (*Cacatua roseicapilla*) having pale blue-grey plumage and a pink breast.
2. Australian A fool; an idiot.

ETYMOLOGY:

Yuwaalaraay (Aboriginal language of southeast Australia) gilaa.
(Hear the word in English) American Accent

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000.

ARTICLE 019

Lightning Ridge Galah Soup

Ingredients:

3 galahs
any diced vegetables
potato (optional)
onion (optional)
cornflour
salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Skin the galahs. Cut along the breast, pull the skin off along with the feathers.
Then cut off the legs, wings and the breast of the galah.
Place these in saucepan or camp oven and cover them with water.
Boil until tender (approx 1.5 hours).
Place vegetables in and boil until the soup is creamy.
Add salt and pepper to taste.

Tip:

If not thick enough - add a little cornflour.

ARTICLE 020

Getting A New Parrot Or Cockatoo?

By Rene`e

There are many things to tell someone who is looking for a new parrot or Cockatoo and you may want to check them out.

1. If this is your first bird, I would suggest that you read several books prior to buying a bird. Reading everything you can about your potential pet will help you to know what you are getting into when you go out to find the bird you want.
2. If this is not a new bird, you may want to have it checked by a Veterinarian prior to bringing it home. You may want to look for signs of illness such as wheezing, heavy breathing, feather problems, general depressed appearance, sneezing or bad stools before you even handle the bird. Parrots carry several diseases which your other birds at home could be exposed to.
3. If you are able to, find out the bird's history of ownership before you buy it. This helps determine how the bird may have been cared for and may alert you to something potentially important. This gives you an idea of if the bird was a breeder or a pet and it also tells you a bit about how many times it's been shuffled around. Birds who are shuffled from owner to owner tend to be neurotic and have problems in some cases.
4. Ask the seller for all potential habits, good and bad, that the bird has. This will help you to know what you are getting into.
5. Be prepared to bring home a bird who can be noisy, destructive, aggressive, a big baby and an attention sponge. Cockatoos tend to be big babies who require a lot of attention.
6. If bringing home a bird who is not the only bird you have in your home, please be prepared to quarantine it for at least 30 days, preferably 45-60 if you are able. Sometimes a disease is not evident to a Veterinarian right away, or to someone who is buying a bird. I would not want to effect my other birds with a potential disease from a newcomer.
7. Look around. Don't jump on the first one you see for sale. You need to spend as much time as you can holding each bird you see and see how you bond with that bird. You may want a Sulphur Crested Cockatoo in the beginning and find out you are better suited with a galah.
8. Be prepared to feed, house, live with, eat with, talk to and own this parrot for many, many years. Parrots live long lives and it is the responsibility of someone who is buying one to think it out prior to getting one. Larger Cockatoos have been known to live to at least 75 years of age. In circumstances such as owning larger birds, you may wish to provide for that bird in your will should you pass before it does.

I certainly hope that these thoughts help you out in your search for a Parrot or Cockatoo.

Toys for your Galah

Toys are a very important part of your Galah's home. Without toys, Galahs can pick, mutilate themselves and get neurotic behaviors. Toys in bright colors are very stimulating for Galahs.

Make your Own

I was sitting at home one afternoon going over our budget and found out how much we really were spending on bird toys and that is when we decided to come up with some fun alternatives to buying toys. We now make a number of our own toys and these are our own recipes for making bird toys.

It's simple and easy, but be sure not to use zinc or lead coated beads or facets. Make sure any material you use is "bird safe" such as wood, rope, rings cannot be coated with exterior glow polish or be of metal. When making shower curtain ring items, please use the plastic rings instead of the metal.

Cotton Rope Tree

Need:

- One roll of cotton rope. This is rope commonly used in floor mops.
- One plastic shower curtain ring.
- One piece of cardboard cut to approximately 16 inches by 8 inches.

Take the rope and wrap it several times around the cardboard in only one direction (much like making a yard ball for the top of a knit hat). Wrapping from the longest side is best. Do this approximately 15 times and then take this off of the cardboard and on one end, stick the curtain rod through it, and then tie it around its neck just below the rod with more cotton rope. Cut the bottom loops so that the tree hangs with strands down for the bird to play with. Hang from cage using the shower curtain ring.

LINK TREE

Need:

- 1 plastic coat hanger - must not contain snaps, clips or have small grooves in it. The straight kind is best.
- 4 or more boxes of plastic shower curtain rings. Try to get the type that snap together. Bright colored rings of different colors are best.

Take the shower curtain rings and hang 5 to 8 per strand by linking them together. This should make several strands of plastic rings. Take these rings and hook them to the coat hanger and your bird will have hours of enjoyment playing with this homemade link tree.

SWING

Need:

- Plastic shower curtain rings in your choice of colors, linked together in 2 equal chains.
- One piece of bird safe wood, such as manzanita.
- 2 U nails, stainless steel only, and please check with the hardware store to make certain that they contain no coatings from their manufacturer.

Take 2 equal chains and then nail them to the stick with the U nail. Hang from cage for hours of entertainment.

HANGING TOY

Need:

- Piece of wood
- 6-8 Small round and square pieces of wood
- Drill
- Cotton Rope

Take the large piece of wood and drill 3-4 holes of equal distance through it, turn it a half turn and drill 3-4 more holes which go in alternate routes through the stick. Stick cotton rope through all of the holes. Use the top string for hanging the toy. On the end of the remaining strings, string pieces of wood. Tie knots in the end of the strings. Do not tie knots above the rings and squares because part of the fun for the bird is yanking them back through to the other side while playing.