

CRANE, DEMOISELLE

RANGE:

Areas through the former Soviet Union, North Africa, Iraq, Southern Asia.

HABITAT:

Open country, dry upland fields, wet marshes.

SIZE:

Length: 37 inches. Smallest species of crane

LIFE EXPECTANCY:

Caprivivity: 25-40 years

REPRODUCTION:

- Breeding in April and May.
- They build large nests on the ground of dry plant materials.
- Male and female both participate in nest building
- Two long, oval-shaped eggs flecked with brown on a brownish base are laid in intervals of 48 hours. Incubation is 30 days with both male and female incubating.'
- Return to same breeding areas from year to year.

DIET:

Omnivorous

Wild: Small plants, insects, frogs, worms, reptiles, small fish and eggs of water animals

Zoo: Grain mix

BEHAVIOR:

In courtship, cranes go through spectacular dances or displays.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Conspicuous white feather tuft on each side of its head.
- Cranes fly with the head and neck straight forward, legs and feet straight out behind.

STATUS:

Relatively Common. Are having some problems with habitat destruction.

theZOO
LOUISVILLE



Robert Kemnitz, photographer

Order: **Gruiformes**
Family: **Gruidae**
Genus: **Anthropoides**
Species: **virgo**