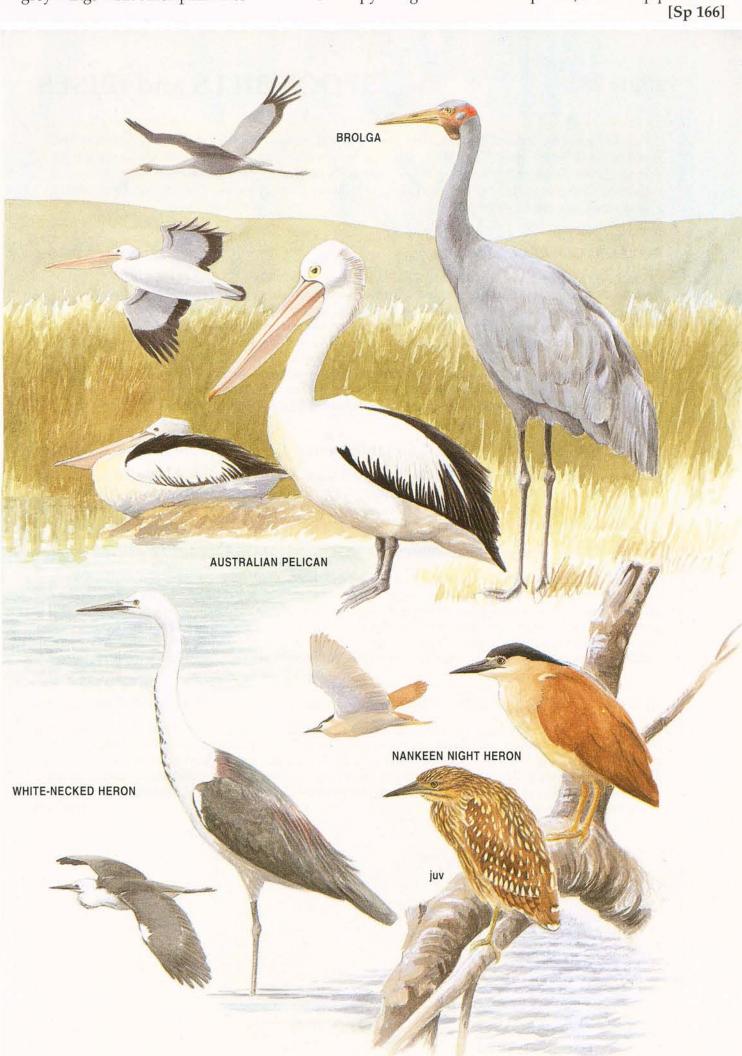
Text and images extracted from Heather, B.D. & Robertson, H.A. (2005) The Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand. Penguin Books, Auckland. Pages 70, 71, 292.

Cranes are tall elegant birds with a stout straight bill, longer than the head. The inner secondary flight feathers form plumes that overhang the tail, like a 'bustle'. Sexes alike. They often soar in thermals.

BROLGA Grus rubicundus

Rare Australian vagrant

115 cm; ♂ 7 kg, ♀ 5 kg. *Very tall stately grey crane* with *scarlet head and nape*, except for grey crown and ear coverts; eye yellow. Juvenile has pink face and crown. In flight, shallow wingbeats, neck and legs extended, grey wings with black primaries. Habitat: Swampy margins of lakes and ponds, and damp pasture.



CRANES

Gruidae straight bill. The Australian species are often associated with water but also frequent dry floodplains and open grassland. They fly

strongly with neck extended and legs trailing.

America and much of the Pacific. One species is a rare vagrant to New Zealand.

About 15 species worldwide, except in South

Reading: Johnsgard, P.A. 1983. Cranes of the World. Bloomington: Indiana Univ Press.

Cranes are very large, long-legged and longnecked birds with a large head and a long

BROLGA 166. Grus rubicundus

Plate 27

Size: Males 125 cm, 7 kg; females 100 cm, 5 kg Distribution: Breed in southern New Guinea and northern, eastern and southeastern Australia, and are especially common in Queensland. Two vagrants have been recorded in New Zealand: Clevedon (March-May 1947), and Punakaiki, West Coast

(January 1968). Behaviour: Cranes, Brolgas included, are noted for their graceful dances (year-round) and their high flying, often out of sight but with audible trumpeting. They fly with their neck stretched out, unlike herons but like spoonbills and ibises.

Reading: McKenzie, H.R. & Cunningham, J.M. 1952. Notornis 4: 198. Westerskov, K.E. 1968. Notornis 15: 248-253.