

Common Crane

Species Description

Scientific name: *Grus grus*

The common crane is one of Europe's largest birds with a wingspan of between 1.8 to 2.45 metres. Once common across East Anglia, a small breeding population established itself in the Norfolk Broads in the late 1970s.

The crane is on the UK Amber conservation list for birds, as it has such a small breeding population. The Great Crane Project championed by the Pensthorpe Conservation Trust in partnership with the RSPB and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust has an objective of reintroducing a viable breeding population at suitable sites within the UK, securing its future as a British breeding bird.



Photo: Neil Aldridge

Key ID features

Very large size—up to 120cm tall and 245cm wingspan. Larger than grey heron.

Large light grey body with darker tail feathers

Adult has black, white and red markings on head and neck



Photo: Nick Upton/2020VISION/naturepl.com