

Nature Journaling Thru The Seasons
African Nature Study



African Nature Study
by Nature Journaling Thru The Seasons

First African Nature Study: Blue Crane

Blue Crane

-The Blue Crane is among South Africa's larger birds.

-The blue crane (*Anthropoides paradisea*), also known as the Stanley crane is the *national bird of South Africa*.

-**Common Names:** Blue Crane, Paradise Crane, Stanley Crane

(Eng.); *bloukraanvoël* (Afr.); *indwe* (Xhosa); *indwe* (Zulu); *mogolodi* (Sepedi).

-Colour: Plain blue-grey, darker on wings: top of head almost white

-Size:

Length: 110–120 cm

Weight: 4.5–5.1 kg

Wingspan: 0.9m- 1.00m

Breeding: September- February

-**Food:** Blue Cranes are omnivorous. They have a varied diet consisting of plant material such as small bulbs, seeds and roots, and animals such as insects (especially grasshoppers), small reptiles, frogs, fish, crustaceans and small mammals. They also eat fallen grains, e.g. wheat and maize kernels, and lucerne leaves.

-**Habitat:** Karoo, high Grasslands & cultivated fields

-**Eggs:** Lays its two camouflaged eggs on the bare ground in open place where visibility is good, so that it can see any disturbance a long way off.

-Blue Crane has appeared on stamp issues and has adorned the 5c coin since 1965.

The Blue Crane is found only in Southern Africa with 99% of the population living in South Africa.

Composer study

Handel - Concerto in F ("The Cuckoo & The Nightingale) <https://youtu.be/oW2Faes1zhs>

Handbook of Nature Study by Anna Botsford Comstock:

pages 27-142

Artist

Barbara Philip <http://silvermere.africanpainting.com/biography/>

Two Blue Cranes



Two Blue Cranes

Watercolour, 245 x 340 mm

Poetry

Blue Cranes

A poem by Southern Cross director Sydney Duval, Oliviershoek 1966

Blue cranes fill a broken field
With heartbeats – intimations!
Distilled to pecking the silent yield
Of a ploughman's austere striations;

They wear charming mandarin smiles
In exquisite consummation
Of their journeying a million miles
From the courts of old Cathay

To this parched highveldvlei.

Beside a barbed wire fence
Knots of nervous tension
Unrehearsed rites commence;
A whispered ascetic commotion
Of cloister silhouettes – bird-stalks

Creeping to silent devotion;
Sober Cistercians to vespers walk
Habits falling to gunmetal tails
Sharpening to crucifixion nails.

Friends we unbuckled bodies there
Young, supple reeds in the old stream
Shocked by the burning of morning air;
Impulse, small talk, tobacco
Are enough for giddy dreams;
A bishop bird breaks cover
Paradise is this plumed incendiary
Fixed forever as in some Pompeii;
A jewel streak in clay.

A stifled invocation – all is gone
But blue cranes on their ancient course
Wings beating back to the source;
And free of debris, this face
Changes to the rapture
Of bird movement in space;
Connected to some blessed web
Sunflowers come in my head.

Journaling activities:

Materials:

Journals
Pencils
Watercolour
Eraser
Ruler

Nature Journaling:

Add the following in your journal-

Date

time

drawing

your observations

location

weather

words

label the bird parts

quotes

measurements

Scientific name

Painting & drawing

<https://www.wedrawanimals.com/how-to-draw-a-blue-crane/>

<https://johnmuirlaws.com/draw-sandhill-cranes/>

<https://johnmuirlaws.com/paint-sandhill-crane-landscape-step-step/>

<https://johnmuirlaws.com/draw-sandhill-crane-basic-lines/>

Here's the video links of getting to know more about Nature journaling.

<https://johnmuirlaws.com/introduction-to-nature-journaling-video/>

<https://johnmuirlaws.com/getting-started-with-nature-journaling-video/>

Internet links & books

Information about Natural History in Southern Africa.

Not affiliated.

<https://www.struiknatureclub.co.za/index.php>

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/798820646986484>

