

What type of bird is the Japanese Crested Ibis?

1. The Toki is designated as a nationally protected species, an internationally protected bird (Red Data Book by Ministry of the Environment), and listed on the Appendix 1 of the Washington Convention
2. Type: Threskiornithidae (The Toki in Japan and China are the same species, so they have same scientific name.)
3. Size (adult bird): Length of the body: 75 cm (from the beak to the tail, when it stretches out its body)
Length of wing: 40 cm (length of one feather)
Wing span: 140 cm (from the right tip to the left tip when stretched open)
Weight: 1,600 g - 2,000 g
4. Egg:
An egg has a major axis of 70 mm, a minor axis of 45 mm, weighs 80-85 g, and is turquoise with brown dots.
5. Physical features:
When they are not in breeding season (August-January), their bodies are generally white and the wings and the back of the tail feathers are pale reddish-orange, called the Toki color. In breeding season (February-July), they smear their wings with head scurf and their head, wings and back look grayish-black.
They have a bundle of thin feathers (crest) on their head. When surprised, they fan out these feathers.
Their face, the top of their beak and their legs are red.
They have a long black beak (17 cm) which curves downward.
It is hard to tell their genders just by sight, but male birds are slightly bigger.
Young birds are generally grayish, the backs of their wings are pale yellow and their face is yellow.
6. Feeding habits:
They eat animals such as loaches, Japanese river crabs, frogs, river snails and insects
7. Breeding:
In mating season, the mating pair builds a nest. They do not group together and make a colony like other ibises. During mating season, mates frequently show behavior such as passing twigs to each other, which is theorized to strengthen their ties, grooming each other with their beaks, and fake mating. (The male mounts the female bird, but they do not actually mate)
In early April, the female bird lays 3 or 4 eggs at one day intervals. If these eggs are damaged or lost, she then lays 2 to 3 eggs after 10 to 14 days. The eggs are incubated by both the male and female birds over roughly 28 days. When a chick hatches from an egg, it weighs about 65 g, its eyes are not open and it can't stand by itself. The chick grows rapidly, and will be able to fly and leave the nest after 40 to 50 days. By this time its body has grown to be as large as the adult birds.
Toki in captivity usually start breeding at around 2 years of age, and Toki in the wild will start to breed at 3 years of age.
8. Toki generally live in the same place year round, but they may also create a flock and move widely when not in breeding season.
9. Distribution:
In the early 20th century, Toki were not a rare species and existed in a wider area of East Asia such as China, Russia, the Korean Peninsula, Taiwan and Japan. (See map) In the Edo period Toki lived all across Japan, from Hakodate to Okinawa. However, due to over-hunting and destruction of their natural habitat, the number of Toki in East Asia began to fall, and by the late 20th century they were extinct everywhere except for China and Japan. As of now wild Toki birds have been observed only in Yang County and Ningshan County of Shaanxi Province, China. In 2008, birds began to be released into the wild on Sado, and as of September 2013, 108 birds have been returned to the wild.



[Toki Habitat]