

Stymphalian Bird

Grus rapax



Image Credit: <http://www.outback-crocodile-adventures.com/images/brolga112.jpg>

Also Known As

Feathered Death, Giant Crane, Killer Crane

Description

These huge cranes stand around 3 metres tall with a wing span in excess of 5 metres. Their plumage is predominately light grey, with the flight feathers being much darker. The head is blood red in colour and the sharp pointed beak is typically more than 50cm long.

Ecology

Though the flock which inhabits the swamps around Lake Stymphalia is the most famous, these birds are found in many areas of the world. A flock usually consists of around twenty birds, but they generally hunt alone or in mated pairs.

The whole flock builds their nests in close proximity, preferring sites in trees or atop reed islands in swamps or lakes. The colony is always guarded, even when the rest of the flock is out hunting. Creatures threatening the nests will be attacked relentlessly by all Stymphalian Birds in the area.

Stymphalian Birds are omnivorous and have been known to decimate orchards, but prefer meat, preying on fish, other birds, reptiles such as young crocodiles and mammals from the surrounding area. Due to their size, these birds are capable of preying on creatures such as goats, sheep, young cattle and humans. They stab at such creatures with their beaks until they die, then snip off chunks of flesh.

Statistics

Characteristics	Average	Attributes
STR	2D6+12	19
CON	1D6+12	15-16
SIZ	3D6+6	16-17
INT	4	4
POW	3D6	10-11
DEX	2D6+9	16
		Move: 2/8 flying
		HP: 16
		Fat: 35
		MP: 10-11
		Dex SR: 2
		Dodge: 50+4

Location	Melee	Missile	Points
r leg	01-02	01	0/5 (.25)
l leg	03-04	02	0/5 (.25)
body	05-09	03-11	3/8 (.40)
r wing	10-13	12-15	3/6 (.33)
l wing	14-17	16-19	3/6 (.33)
head	18-20	20	0/6 (.33)

Weapon	SR	A%	Damage
Peck	6	50+11	1D6+1D6
Buffet	3	Automatic	Special

Notes:

The peck attack can be used if the bird is flying past its prey, or if it is standing.

Stymphalian birds can buffet opponents with their powerful wings. Both wings are used to strike with, but the attack doesn't inflict real damage, instead it distracts the opponent. To determine the "damage", roll 1D3 plus half the damage bonus. Multiply this "damage" by 5%. Any skill attempt, characteristic roll etc attempted by the target is reduced by this value.

Skills

Fly 100+4, Scan 50+3

Armour

3 Point feathers on body and wings

References

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stymphalian_birds
<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/Herakles/birds.html>