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The feeding behaviour and diet of the Black-necked Stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus australis* in northern New South Wales

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Field studies were carried out over a two and three-quarter year period (2003–2005) to study the feeding behaviour and diet of free-fl ying Black-necked Storks *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus australis* (adults, immatures and juveniles) and the food fed to nestlings in New South Wales. Storks walked or stood in water searching visually, or walked in water constantly probing into water or reeds. The majority of time was spent hunting (70%) and most prey captures (68.4%) involved visual scanning rather than probing. Foraging occurred mostly in the early mornings and late afternoons with Storks loafing during the middle of the day, conforming to the behaviour of tropical storks. Storks fed on a variety of vertebrate and invertebrate prey caught in water, usually between 50–300 millimetres deep. Long-finned Eels *Anguilla reinhardtii* contributed the most to biomass due to their large size. The most frequently caught prey comprised small unidentifi ed animals, probably insects and molluscs. The stomach contents of nine Storks from the Australian Museum comprised mostly insects and other small invertebrates.