

Listening



Photography: Gwenneth Leane

There is only one thing on this creature's mind: the next meal. It is listening for that surreptitious rustle in the grass. Once the meal is located, that long black beak makes a dive to nab the meal. Listening gives the Jabiru a meal.

But listening we humans become aware of our fellows and care about them.

Listening is an art. There are some people who are born listeners while others are busy thinking what to say next about themselves and never hear what is being said.

It is deflating to realise that what you said wasn't heard. The self-esteem takes a dive, and comes up with nothing but a devaluation of oneself.

"One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually LISTENING to what another has to say." - Bryant H. McGill, American poet.

It costs nothing to create the feeling that what the other person is saying is very important.

