

Boat-billed Heron

Cochlearius cochlearius



Range: Southern Mexico to
Size: ♂: 46-63 cm (18- 25 in)
♀: 46-63 cm (18-25 in)
Weight: ♂: 0.6 kg (1.3 lbs)
♀: 0.6 kg (1.3 lbs)
Wing: 76 cm (30 in)
Habitat: mangrove swamps
Incubation: 30-31 days
Eggs: 2-4
Fledge: 6-8 weeks
Sexual maturity: n/a
Nest: small platforms of sticks in low trees
Social: solitary
Breeding: monogamous
Movement : sedentary
Food: invertebrates, fish and frogs
IUCN: least concern
Subspecies : monotypic
Longevity: captive: 20 yrs Wild:

Order: Ciconiiformes Family: Ardeidae

Due to its cryptic and nocturnal lifestyle, little is known of the habits of the Boat-billed heron. What is known is it is a solitary bird that feeds on fish, frogs and invertebrates in shallow, slow moving waters. Whether the boat-bill is a true nocturnal animal or a crepuscular one is still being debated. Behavior might be variable due to available light and activity by predators including man.

The Boat-billed heron has often been grouped with the “night herons”, *Nycticorax nycticorax* and *N. violacea*, due to its body shape and behavior. However it is not closely related to this genus.

The boat-billed heron performs an elaborate courtship. The male erects its long crest and clatters its bill. The female will respond by clattering her bill. The pair will then ritualistically touch bill tips including rhythmic movements