

Crested Screamer

Chauna torquata



Range: South America

Size: ♂: 81-94 cm (32-37 in)

♀: 81-94 cm (32-37 in)

Weight: ♂: 2.7-4.1kg (6-9 lbs)

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Wing: ♂: 170 cm (69 in)

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Habitat: wetlands

Incubation: 40-48 days

Eggs: 2-7

Fledge: 8-10 weeks

Sexual maturity: 24-36 months

Nest: platform on ground

Social: Flocks of > 100

Breeding: monogamous

Movement: sedentary

Food: grasses, seeds and stems

IUCN: Vulnerable

Subspecies: Monotypic

Longevity: captive: 35 years

Wild: 15 years

Order: Anseriformes Family: Anhimidae

Although looking like a game bird the Crested Screamer is actually a primitive form of waterfowl. It is only one of three species in the family. The feet are only slightly webbed and the screamers only swim reluctantly.

The population is stable and the range is widespread. Due to this the crested screamer is listed as Least Concern by the IUCN. Their preferred habitat of marshes and wet savannas are in decline due to development, though. This species is adaptable and will forage on cultivated fields.

The screamer is named for its loud vocalization. Air sacs located above the black neck ring act as amplifiers allowing for the vocalization to be among the loudest of all birds. Despite its large size the screamer is a docile bird and uses its call as an alarm. In its home range it has been domesticated and used as a sentry.

