

# Roseate Spoonbill

## *Ajaia ajaja*



**Range:** Southern US to Argentina  
**Size:** ♂: 76-86 cm (30-34 in)  
♀: 76-86 cm (30-34 in)  
**Weight:** ♂: 8.8 kg (4 lbs)  
♀: 8.8 kg (4 lbs)  
**Wing:** 127 cm (50 in)  
**Habitat:** mangroves, marshes  
**Incubation:** 23 days  
**Eggs:** 1-4  
**Fledge:** 5-6 weeks  
**Sexual maturity:** 36 months  
**Nest:** cup  
**Social:** gregarious  
**Breeding:** monogamous  
**Movement:** Sedentary  
**Food:** aquatic invertebrates  
**IUCN:** least concern  
**Subspecies:** monotypic  
**Longevity:** captive: 10 yrs  
**Wild:**



Order: Ciconiiformes Family: Threskiornithidae

By the beginning of the twentieth century the hunting of the Roseate Spoonbill for their feathers had decreased the population to near extinction. The number of breeding pairs in the United States was down to 30 in 1939. A combination of protective laws and a change in fashion led to a remarkable recovery. Today the population is stable and the species is listed as Least Concern.

The Roseate spoonbill is diurnal bird that forages in shallow muddy water. It feeds by moving its head side to side with its spatulate bill slightly open. When a prey item touches the the highly sensitive inside of the bill the spoonbill will quickly shut its bill.