

Scarlet Ibis

Eudocimus ruber



Range: Northern South America
Size: ♂: 56-63 cm (22-25 in)
♀: 56-63 cm (22-25 in)
Weight ♂: 1.4 kg (3.1 lb)
♀: 1.4 kg (3.1 lb)
Wing: 54 cm (21 in)
Habitat: coast and wetlands
Incubation: 19-23 days
Eggs: 3-5
Fledge: 5 weeks
Sexual maturity: 24 months
Nest: loose platform
Social: gregarious
Breeding: polygynous
Movement : Migratory
Food: aquatic invertebrates
fish
IUCN: least concern
Subspecies : monotypic
Longevity: captive: 30 yrs
Wild:

Order: Ciconiiformes Family: Threskiornithidae

Unmistakable in its home range the Scarlet Ibis is the only deep red shorebird in the Western Hemisphere. However since diet plays a part in the coloration it may vary to pink in some individuals.

Like the flamingo the scarlet ibis feeds on crustaceans which provide the carotenoids necessary for its coloration. Insects also make up a large portion of its diet. Feeding is accomplished by probing in the mud with its downward curving bill.

The scarlet ibis has a stable population and is a common sight on the wetlands and shorelines of South America and Caribbean islands. This species is listed as Least Concern by the IUCN. However it is protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and is listed on Appendix II on CITES.