

CHILEAN FLAMINGO

Phoenicopterus chilensis

- **Range:** WC Ecuador, south through Andes to Tierra del Fuego, extending east to S Brazil and Uruguay.
- **Habitat:** Coastal mudflats, estuaries, lagoons and salt lakes from sea level up to 4,500 m.
- **Nutrition:** Aquatic invertebrates including crustaceans, larvae and pupae of Diptera, corixids and snails. Often feeds with the entire neck submerged under the water.
- **Reproduction:** 1 egg. Incubation 27 – 31 days.
- **Social structure:** They are very social birds that feed and nest together in flocks ranging from a few individuals to tens of thousands.
- **Weight:** 1.7 – 2.5 kg.
- **Dimensions:** Height 105 cm. Wingspan 1.27 – 1.53 m.
- **Estimated population in the wild:** 300,000 individuals.
- **Lifespan:** 50 years.
- **Threats:** Intensive egg-harvesting, abstraction of water for irrigation projects, habitat alteration due to mining, hunting and tourism-related disturbance.
- **IUCN Status:** NT (near threatened).

Did you know?

- The Chilean flamingo is the most common of the three strictly South American species of flamingos.
- The Chilean flamingo differs from other species by its blue grey legs with bright pink "knees", and by the pink base to its bill.
- Their legs are relatively shorter than of another flamingo species.
- They typically walk while feeding almost twice as fast as the other two South American species.
- Their nest is usually a truncated cone of mud with a shallow bowl on top. On rocky islands without mud, they lay on bare ground.