

AMERICAN FLAMINGO

Phoenicopterus ruber

- **Range:** Caribbean, northern coasts of South America, Galapagos.
- **Habitat:** Saline lagoons, salt pans, coastal waters.
- **Nutrition:** Crustaceans, molluscs, marine worms, insects, seeds of marsh grasses, decaying leaves. Occasionally crabs, small fish. Sometimes ingests mud, in order to extract organic matter, especially bacteria.
- **Reproduction:** 1, rarely 2 eggs. Incubation 27 – 31 days.
- **Social structure:** Groups of about 3,000 pairs.
- **Weight:** 2.1 – 4.1 kg.
- **Dimensions:** Height 1.20 – 1.45 m. Wingspan 1.40 – 1.65 m.
- **Estimated population in the wild:** 150,000 – 205,000 mature individuals.
- **Lifespan:** 40 – 60 years.
- **Threats:** Habitat loss, human disturbance.
- **IUCN Status:** LC (least concern).

Did you know?

- Adults have the most vivid pink / orange colour of all flamingo species. Chicks are brown and white, attaining adult coloration in 2 – 3 years.
- The American flamingo is the only flamingo distributed through the Caribbean Sea, on the northern coasts of South America, and on the Galapagos. It was formerly considered conspecific with the greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*).
- The American flamingo tends to feed somewhat deeper than other flamingo species.
- Tough skin on their legs protects them from extremely alkaline and salty lagoons.