CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Roseate Spoonbill

Platalea ajaja

Platalea ajaja is pink for the same reason a flamingo is: carotenoid pigments, particularly canthaxanthin, absorbed from crustaceans and other prey and deposited in the feathers. A spoonbill fed a ca…

Quick facts

Classification: Bird
Family: Threskiornithidae
Habitat: Marshes, mangroves, and coastal wetlands
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 10-15 years
Weight: 1.2-1.8 kg
Scientific name: Platalea ajaja

Did you know?

- Unlike flamingos, the Roseate Spoonbill's pink coloration can fade if their diet lacks enough crustaceans and other pigment-rich foods.
- Spoonbills are not related to flamingos at all — they are ibises, family Threskiornithidae, and the shared pink is pure dietary convergence. Their fa…

What I learned

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