

# Greater Flamingo

*Phoenicopterus roseus*

These elegant birds are found from Southern Spain and France to North, West and East Africa to South Africa and through to the Middle East and Sri Lanka and India.

The Greater Flamingo is found living in Saline Lagoons and Salt Pans, Large Shallow Inland Lakes and also Sand-banks and Mudflats. They breed in large, dense colonies of up to 20 000 pairs (200 000 pairs in India). The nest is normally a truncated of mud with a shallow bowl on top. On rocky islands without mud, the nest is a small pile of stones and debris. Usually a single egg is laid and this is incubated by both sexes. The chicks leave the nest at around 3 days old and follow the parents around – going back onto the nest when they need to.

They are one of only 3 Flamingo species which breeds well in captivity. Over the past several years we have bred 42 young from our colony.



**Lifespan:** 45 Years

**Weight:** 2100 - 4100 g

**Size:** 120 - 145 cm

**Breeding Season:** August - December

**Incubation Period:** 27 - 31 Days

**Number of Chicks:** 1 – rarely 2

**Diet:** Relatively varied diet. Aquatic Invertebrates, Algae, Insects, Small Fish and also Plant Matter

**Problems They Face:** Trapping for Trade, Shot for Sport, Pollution

**Conservation Status:** Not Globally Threatened - CITES App. 2