

Toco Toucan

Ramphastos toco

Toco Toucans are found in Woodland and Lightly Wooded areas of Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Northern Argentina.

The Toco Toucan is arguably the most well-known of the Toucan species and it is often the beak that they are known for. The beak is the largest relative to body size of all birds, providing 30 - 50 % of its body surface area. Whilst there is debate on the purpose of the beak, some ideas are: attracting a mate, peeling fruit, intimidating other birds and putting it into nests to steal eggs and baby birds.

When sleeping, toucans turn their heads so that the beak lies down their backs and then fluff up their wings over the beak. Predators would only see a ball of feathers and pass on by so that helps them with camouflage. There are also a lot of blood vessels in the beak so tucking it away at night may also serve to regulate body heat.



Lifespan: 20 Years
Weight: 500 - 860 g
Size: 55 - 65 cm
Breeding Season: August - December
Incubation Period: 15 - 18 Days
Number of Chicks: 2 - 4
Diet: Mostly Fruits but also known to eat Insects, Frogs, Small Reptiles, Birds Eggs and even Baby Birds
Problems They Face: Habitat destruction, trapping for trade.
Conservation Status: Not Globally Threatened - CITES App. 2