

Roseate Spoonbill

Platalea ajaja

A bizarre wading bird of the southern coasts, the Roseate Spoonbill uses its odd bill to strain small food items out of the water. Its bright pink coloring leads many Florida tourists to think they have seen a flamingo.

Keys to Identification

Adult Description

- Pink.
- Long, flat, spoon-shaped bill.
- Bald head.
- Moderately long reddish legs.

Immature Description

Similar to adult, but paler pink to white and white, feathered head.

Cool Facts

- The oldest recorded Roseate Spoonbill was at least 15 years, 10 months old when it was recaptured and rereleased during a scientific study in Florida.

Measurements

Both Sexes

- Length - 28 - 33.9 inches
- Wingspan - 47.2 - 51.2 inches
- Weight - 42.3 - 63.5 ounces

