



Roseate Spoonbill

Roseate Spoonbill *(Platalea ajaja)*

Instant ID

- A pink wading bird with a bill that looks similar to a spoon
- Has orange patches on shoulders and white chest and neck
- Bill and head are gray-green in color
- Grows up to 34 inches long with a 51 inch wingspan
- Adults develop a pink patch on the breast and a golden-colored face in the spring

Native Niches

- Found in coastal regions from the Gulf of Mexico south through most of South America

Favorite Foods

- Eats small crustaceans (crabs and animals related) strained from the water with its bill





Roseate Spoonbill

Roseate Spoonbill *(Platalea ajaja)*

Critter Characteristics

- Bill is adapted to filter (strain) its food from the water
- Like the similarly colored flamingo, the pink in its feathers comes from the food it eats
- It is 1 of 6 spoonbill species and the only one native to the United States
- Florida has the largest breeding population in the United States

Population Protection

- Once widely hunted for its feathers, now habitat loss is its biggest threat
- Florida State Parks preserve and restore habitat for many protected species