

Giant Wood-rail

Aramides ypecaha

Kingdom	Animalia
Phylum	Chordata
Class	Aves
Order	Gruiformes
Family	Rallidae



Native to: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

Status: Least Concern

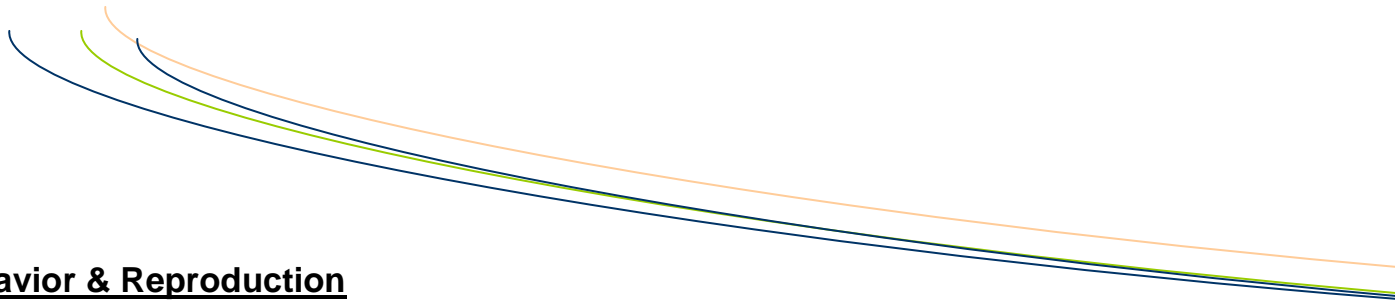
Giant Wood-rails are not globally threatened and are fairly common throughout their range. Because they can live in open areas they are not as severely affected by deforestation. The wood-rail is a very common pet in its countries of origin. It is often caught and sold in the shops of small villages.

Appearance & Lifespan

The Giant Wood-rail has olive upperparts, a chestnut hind neck and a black tail and rump. The face and top of the neck are pale bluish grey and the flanks and upper breast are a light brownish pink. The legs and eyes are reddish-pink and the bill is pale orange at the base and fades to apple green to greyish yellow at the tip. Both the males and females are identical in appearance.

The lifespan of the giant wood-rail is 7-10 years.





Behavior & Reproduction

In the evening the wood-rails group together and sing using howls, screams and whistles.

Breeding is from September to February. The nest is built of grasses and plant stems and can be built on the ground or in trees and shrubs. It usually measures 30-55 cm in diameter and 13-15 cm deep. They usually lay 4-7 brightly coloured eggs varying from white, green, yellow, orange, pink, or brown with small purple spots. The female lays one egg per day and they hatch one at a time. Both parents incubate the eggs for about 24 days. The chicks leave the nest after 3-4 days. The parents care for the chicks up to 9 weeks then might lay up to two more clutches in the season.

Ecology & Habitat

The wood-rails natural habitat is a subtropical or tropical moist lowland forest. They are found in marshes, lagoons, estuaries, swamps, and pastures near water.

Wood-rails have a varied diet in the wild, they eat seeds and fruit as well as many different types of snails.

At the zoo the Wood-rails are fed chopped fish, shrimp, mixed vegetables, meal worms, and horse meat.

Did You Know?

1. A Giant Wood-rail can run faster than a human.
2. This species is flightless.
3. Wood-rail fossils were found from 50 million years ago but DNA studies suggest that they were around before then.



<http://www.oiseaux.net/oiseaux/rale.ypecaha.html>



Riverview Park & Zoo
1230 Water Street, Peterborough, ON. K9J 6Z5
Ph. 705.748.9301 Fax: 705.745.6866