

# Southern or Crested Screamer



**Scientific Name:**  
*Chauna torquata*

**Range:**  
Bolivia, southern Brazil and northern Argentina

**Habitat:**  
Tropical and sub-tropical wetlands, lakes, marshes, flooded fields and meadows

**Average Size:**  
Length: 32-37 inches  
Weight: 6-9 lbs

**Lifespan:**  
About 15 years

**Diet:**  
*Wild:* aquatic plants, seeds, leaves, stems, crops, berries and small invertebrates

*Zoo:* Dog food, fruit and vegetables, vitamins, meat

**Reproduction:**  
*Incubation:* about 44 days

*Clutch size:* 2-7 eggs

**Appearance:**  
Large gray bird with a small head and slightly hooked bill. The neck has a 'collar' of black and white feathers. The face has a red mask around the eyes extending towards the bill. The legs are long and red with partial webbings between the long toes. The wings sport a sharp spur on the leading edge.

**Predators:**  
Dogs and other carnivores

**Population Status:**  
Stable



waters they inhabit.

When threatened, they will take wing and perch among the treetops screaming warning to others of their kind. If unable to fly away, they will use the 2-inch spurs found on their wings to protect themselves from threats.

## Mating and Reproduction

During the mating season, screamers form pair and build nests of reeds on the ground near shallow water. Courtship involves long, loud calls between the pair. Both parents incubate the eggs and watch over the hatchlings. Not long after hatching, the chicks leave the nest and begin to feed themselves.

## Amazing Information

Screamers have large spurs that protrude from the leading edge of each wing. They use these spurs to fight rivals and enemies.

The name 'screamer' comes the loud call - it can be easily heard from more than a mile away!



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