



STINAPA INFORMATION

WHY IS A FLAMINGO PINK?

Flamingos are an essential part of Bonaire's landscape. Between all the turquoise of the ocean and the green of plants and trees, you can't miss the beautifully pink Caribbean flamingo. Many people will ask themselves where the flamingo gets its beautiful pink feathers. The answer is actually very simple; from their diet! In the food the flamingo eats there is carotene (which you also find in carrots) and that helps in creating that astonishing color. Flamingos have a very peculiar way of eating. They will 'graze' with their heads upside down in shallow water. With their beaks they dig in the mud and filter this through an ingenious filtration system. What's left in their beaks is what they really want to eat; tiny fish, shrimp and algae. But they also love the occasional snail, larvae, fly pupae and mussel. As we already know, flamingos like to live near salt pans. There they are master and ruler, and that's what they like. These pink birds are very social too. They will not start to breed unless there are some 15 to 20 animals together. Next to that they have high demands when it comes to their breeding area. The soil should not be too hard, or too soft. There should be enough food in the neighborhood in water with just the right salinity. There must be fresh drinking water nearby and it must be quiet. Why flamingos decide to start building nests and start to breed is still a mystery. Although it is assumed that a good downpour definitely has something to do with it. Basically it can be said that breeding takes place the whole year through with peaks around March and November. From the data the monthly counts on Bonaire give, it shows that the record number of breeding flamingos was seen in 1992 and in 1995, 3.500 to be exact. The highest number of offspring was noted in 1992: 3503. Another interesting statistic is the record number of flamingos on the island, that was 6.726, and it was recorded in 1999. A record low was seen in 1998, only 1.689 flamingos were here. According to an associate of DROB, the flamingo population on Bonaire has been pretty steady since the year 2000. That's a good sign. And we can only keep it that way if we keep giving this bird the peace and quiet and protection it so desperately needs.

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NOS TA BIBA DI NATURALES



Traha huntu na un desaroyo duradero pa Bonelru