



STINAPA INFORMATION

THE SEDUCTION DANCE OF THE FLAMINGO

The saliañas of Slagbaai, Gotomeer (Goto lake) and Pekelmeer (Brine Lake) are important breeding grounds for our flamingos. Before the birds mate, they try to seduce each other with a dance. This seduction behaviour is a so-called 'courtship dance'. Both males and females participate. The difference between the genders can only be seen by their length. Males are about 20 centimeters taller. The courtship dance will start in a group of flamingos with the stretching of the neck and brief spreading of the wings. The black feathers on the wings are clearly visible then. Also the grooming of the feathers or the placing of the beak on the back are movements that are part of the courtship dance. After a while the birds take off for a short flight as another part of the dance. Now the flamingos shake their heads and curtsy with slightly spread wings. They make sounds like geese do and produce the well known 'chogogo'-sound. They subsequently start to pair off. The couples distance themselves from the main flock which slowly becomes smaller as a result. From that moment on the male and female stay together. They look for food together and sleep together. The actual mating takes place approximately four weeks before the egg is laid. The mating usually starts when the female is looking for food with its head or beak under water. The male approaches her from behind until his chest touches her tail feathers. The female will stop and spread her wings. The male then hops on the female, resting his feet under her wings. Meanwhile he will balance himself by flapping his wings and leans backwards. The female often will hold her head under water. The insemination takes place via a protruding part of the body on the bottom part of the body, called the cloaca. This protrusion not only contains the reproductive organs, but also the anal and urinal exits. That's where the male's sperm gets in contact with the females eggs. Once the mating has taken place the female will lay one fairly big egg. The nest is conical in shape with a diameter of thirty centimeters and is made of mud and pebbles. After laying the egg it takes about thirty days to hatch. The parents will feed this grayish fuzzy bundle of fluff with a nutritious red liquid that they regurgitate from their digestive tract. After a few weeks the chick will go to the 'day nursery'. This nursery is guarded by a few adult flamingos. The parents will feed their own young until it has its own 'beakfilter' so it can feed itself after a couple of months.

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NOS TA BIBA DI NATURELESA



Traha huntu na un desaroyo duradero pa Bonelru