

Not to Be Confused With the Roseate Spoonbill

Like a flamingo, the roseate spoonbill often sleeps standing on one leg.

Like a flamingo, the roseate spoonbill gets its pinkish hue from its crustacean diet.

Unlike a flamingo, the roseate spoonbill appears to have a giant piece of silverware taped to its face. Why? Well, for . . . exactly the reasons you'd expect, honestly.

A spoonbill forages for food by shoving its beak into the muddy beds found in shallow water. As it moves its head from side to side, the sensitive nerve endings in its bill make it easy to feel and clamp down on any prey unfortunate enough to be in the vicinity.

Spoonbills aren't born with a spoon-shaped beak. They spend their infancy eating out of their parents' bills—but during that time, their beaks begin to flatten out and take on their iconic shape. Once it's time for them to start foraging on their own, the transformation is complete—perfectly planned by a God who knows what He's doing.

Oh, and if you're wondering what to call a group of these curious-looking waterfowl, the answer should feel a bit obvious:

A group of spoonbills is called a bowl.

Pictured: roseate spoonbill
(*Platalea ajaja*)



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