

PAINTED STORK

Mycteria leucocephala

Pennant, 1769



CLASSIFICATION

Class: Aves

Order: Ciconiiformes

Family: Ciconiidae

No recognized subspecies



NOT LISTED



Species Survival Plan

UNCOMMON



NEAR THREATENED

Identification: Adults can grow to a size of 1 m for a weight of 3.5 kg. Dark red legs, long orange-yellow bill, face naked and orange to nearly red in color. Plumage white with black breast band and large black area on wings. Some wing feathers are pink.

Range: The species occurs in southern Asia, from south Pakistan and most of India to Sri Lanka, east to Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

Habitat : Shallow freshwater and coastal wetlands in lowlands, occasionally in cities.

Behavior: The species is gregarious feeding in small groups, breeding in colonies. Feeds mostly on fishes. Nest built on top of trees, breeding starts with monsoon.

Status in the wild: The species is threatened by habitat loss and wetland drainage. Hunting occurs on local scale. It remains the most numerous Asian stork so far.

In captivity: This species is commonly kept in Asian collections and well bred. Zoo Negara, in Malaysia, keeps the world's biggest breeding colony. In Europe and USA, the species is much rarer. Displayed in 5 European zoos and not often bred there.