

GREATER RHEA

Rhea americana

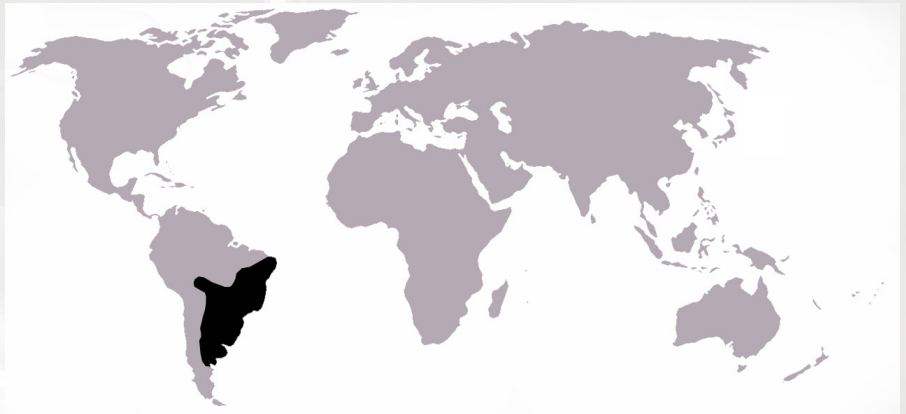


FUN FACTS

- Rheas are flightless. Their strong legs can move them up to 37 mph, using their large wings like an airplane to help them bank and turn quickly. They are also excellent swimmers.
- The rhea exhibits many reproductive behaviors unusual among birds. Harems of females perform complex mating displays to males, who build and defend a nest site. Up to 12 females will lay their eggs communally for the male, then wander away with no further reproductive role. Males defend the nest, incubate the eggs and care for the chicks alone. Harems will move from one male nest to the next repeating the same behavior, then move on.

THREATS & CONSERVATION

The primary threat is accelerating deforestation in the Amazon basin as land is cleared for cattle ranching and soy production, facilitated by road expansion.



class
bird



biorhythm
diurnal



biome
*open
grassland*



birth
oviparous



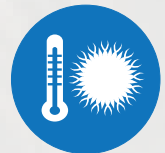
diet
omnivore



interaction
social



body temp
endotherm



habitat
terrestrial

