



Indian Skimmer (*Rynchops albicollis*)

Size: Body length, 40 - 43 cm; wingspan, 102 - 114 cm **Weight:** Unknown **Habitat:** Wide lowland rivers, around lakes and marshes, and estuaries along marine coasts **Surviving number:** Estimated at 6,000 - 10,000



Photographed by Otto Plantema

WILDLIFE AS CANON SEES IT

Dinner to go. The Indian skimmer scoops up small fish, crustaceans and other arthropods while flying low over the surface of the water. This unusual mode of dining is facilitated by a long lower mandible, which allows the bird to snap up choice entrées. Uniquely adapted eyes help, too, handling both nocturnal conditions and dazzling daylight reflections. The skimmer is less successful

at dealing with habitat loss and predation. Its natural reaction when approached is to lie low, flying away only at the last moment. But how much longer can it escape the dangers it faces?

As Canon sees it, images have the power to raise awareness of the threats facing endangered species and the natural environment, helping us make the world a better place.



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