

# Wattled Jacana

Feb. 22

Rush Creek

2008

## Introduction

Have you ever heard of a bird that's walking on lily pads or sitting on a floating nest? If you haven't, you won't be able to say that after you read about the Wattled Jacana. Wattled Jacanas, and other birds in the Jacana family also known as lily-trotters and lotus-birds. They are identifiable by the large size of their feet. The purpose of this assignment is to inform you about the Wattled Jacana.

## Description

The Wattled Jacana has a bone that's bright red on its forehead and their beak is yellow. The females are the same color as the male. The adults have chestnut wings and back. The legs, feet, toes and toe nails are a dull blue-gray. On the under side of the wing there are some greenish yellow flight feathers. The female of the two, are a little larger. They have very long toes, toe nails. They are usually 17-23cm long.



<http://images.google.com/images?>

## Habitat and Food

You can find them through-out the tropical zone of the world. Wattled Jacanas are mainly found in Panama all way to northern Argentina. They build their nest on the water and it floats. The Wattled Jacana likes shallow lakes with vegetation. The vegetation is preferable large lily pads. They eat insects and other small things in water.

## Young

The females will lay four eggs per nesting. Males take care of the eggs by sitting in the nest with two eggs held between a wing and the breast. It takes three through four weeks for the eggs to hatch. The four eggs are black-marked. When the female leaves the chicks are in danger of new female. Female will kill the other chicks so her chicks to have a good chance to survive. The chicks are called juveniles, they are dark brown and have white puffy under parts. The females will mate more then one male at time. Each male stays in its area that it has. After the female mates, she will move on. The female doesn't come back and the male is left to protect the eggs.

## Conclusion

The Wattled Jacana is a bird I'll never really understand because it has weird behaviors, but it will always be the bird I did research on. In conclusion, Wattled Jacanas are birds of many behaviors. To some people Wattled Jacanas are just birds that live in wetlands, but I think they're birds that don't have so easy, especially the males. One odd thing I learned about the Wattled Jacana is that the female has more power on what happens to the eggs. When I say that I mean that the female does odd things to make sure her eggs hatch.