

# KEEL-BILLED TOUCAN

*located in the Wetlands of the Americas*

- The keel-billed toucan is the national bird of Belize.
- They are social birds that live in small flocks.
- Toucans nest in tree cavities that have been made by other birds.

## How can a toucan hold up that huge bill?

- A toucan's bill is actually very light. It is made of keratin, the same protein material that makes up our fingernails and hair.
- The toucan's bill is hollow, and is supported by thin rods of bone structured like a honeycomb.

## Native habitat and diet

- Keel-billed toucans are found in lowland rainforest from southern Mexico to Venezuela and Colombia.
- Their diet in the wild is primarily fruit, and occasionally insects, bird eggs, lizards and tree frogs.
- When eating fruit, toucans pick the fruit with their bills, and then toss their heads back to swallow the fruit whole.

## One can saves toucans!

- Like all rainforest animals, keel-billed toucans are threatened in the wild due to habitat loss driven by growing human populations and demand for resources.
- Habitat is also being lost to mining operations. Bauxite is an ore that is mined in toucans' natural habitat and is used to make aluminum foil, aluminum cans, and pots and pans.
- By recycling aluminum cans, you can help reduce the amount of bauxite we use – recycling one can saves toucans!
- Some of the National Aviary's research programs in the tropics have focused on the impact that bauxite mining has on birds and other wildlife.

***DID YOU KNOW? Despite the Fruit Loops commercials that tell you to "follow your nose"- toucans, like most birds, have almost NO sense of smell!***



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