

GUAM RAIL

RANGE:

The island of Guam, Micronesia

HABITAT:

Shrubby and grassland areas.

SIZE:

Adults are about 8 inches tall and weigh about 350 grams.

LIFE EXPECTANCY:

In captivity they have been known to live 8 – 10 years.

REPRODUCTION:

- The similar looking males and females are sexually mature at 6 months.
- Guam Rails are quiet birds except at mating time from March through October, when they screech loudly and dash after each other in the marsh grass.
- They lay 2 to 4 eggs in a grass nest, twice a year.
- Chicks are precocial

DIET:

Insects, snails, reptiles, small mammals.

BEHAVIOR:

- Guam rails are flightless ground nesters and foragers.
- They are a shy bird that live in pairs.
- Can be extremely aggressive then provoked.

POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Both males and females have olive brown upper parts, with the underparts being reddish brown with white stripes. The throat is whitish fading to gray.
- The population became endangered when the Brown Tree Snake (*Boiga irregularis*) was inadvertently introduced into Guam in the 1940's. The snake eats eggs, chicks and adult rails.

STATUS:

Endangered. Extinct on Guam from 1985 until very recently. There are about 140 birds in captive breeding programs throughout the United States. The Island of Guam has a breeding center and recently an area of about 60 acres of natural habitat were cleared of the Brown Tree Snake and protection measures put in place to protect several rails released into the area. The Guam rail is being bred with the goal of returning more birds back into the wild.

theZOO

LOUISVILLE

**PHOTO
COMING
SOON**

Order:	Gruiformes
Family:	Rallidae
Genus:	Rallus
Species:	owstoni