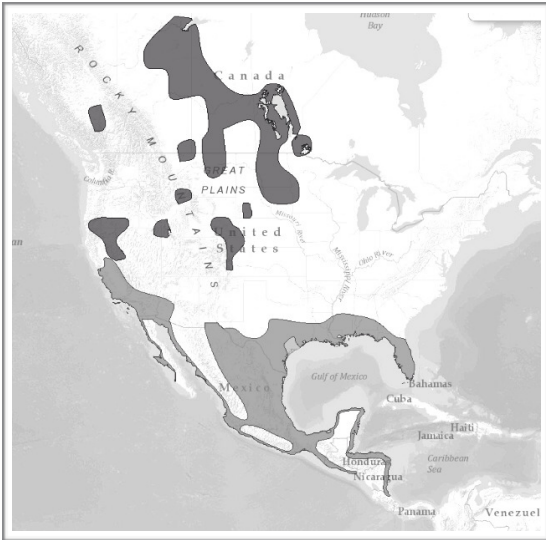


American White Pelican

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos



Range: North America

Size: ♂: 130-180 cm (50-70 in)

♀: 117-162 cm (45-63 in)

Weight: ♂: 5.4-9 kg (11-20 lbs)

♀: 4.5-7.7 kg (10-17 lbs)

Wing: 290 cm (114 in)

Bill: ♂: 34 cm

♀: 29 cm

Habitat: freshwater

Incubation: 28-30 days

Eggs: 1-3

Fledge: 9-12 weeks

Sexual maturity: 36 months

Nest: Scrape

Social: gregarious

Breeding: seasonally
monogamous

Movement: Migratory

Food: fish

IUCN: least concern

Subspecies: Monotypic

Longevity: captive: 26 yrs
Wild:

Order: Pelicaniformes Family: Pelicanidae

One of the largest flying birds in North America the American White Pelican has a wingspan of over 9 feet and weighs over thirty pounds. The large bill which measures 15 inches possesses a pouch which can hold 4 gallons of water.

The American white pelican feeds on fish in large inland lakes of central, western and coastal North America. This pelican will forage cooperatively, working together to herd fish into shallower in order to grab them near the surface. A single pelican may eat as much as four pounds of fish a day.

This is a monotypic species and both sexes have similar plumage. During breeding season both sexes grow a breeding plate on top of its bill. Once the eggs are laid the plate will disintegrate.