

## American White Pelican

*(Pelecanus erythrorhynchos)*



Flora  
Fauna



### How to Identify:

- American White Pelicans are one of the largest birds in North America.
- Powerful and graceful flyers, American White Pelicans have a 9-foot wingspan.
- They are all white except for black flight feathers only visible when their wings are spread.
- They have a long beak with a large throat pouch, it is yellow/orange as well as their legs.

### Habitat:

- American White Pelicans are mostly inland birds, especially in breeding season.
- It feeds in shallow lakes and marshes.
- American White Pelicans nest on isolated islands in lakes.

They are usually silent. If noise is made it grunts or croaks. The nestlings bark.

Explore Idaho  
with Scout the Fox!

*Scout*



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### More Fun Facts!

- The American White Pelicans can feed miles from its nesting ground.
- They often feed with cooperative feeding. Pelicans will form a line and drive schools of fish towards the shore where escaping is difficult.
- During breeding season, it does most of its foraging at night, relying on touch through frequent dipping of its bill.
- The American White Pelican is a migratory bird. They migrate to winter in the southwest and southeast costal lowlands.





# Portals to Parks



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### Help Protect the American White Pelican

- Volunteer at a wildlife refuge.
- Follow local fishing laws.
- Recycle old fishing lines.
- If you see a pelican with wing tags, report the sighting to [reportband.gov](http://reportband.gov). Be sure to include the color of the tag.
- Pack it in, pack it out

## ACTIVITY TIME

Research the Brown Pelican. Name at least three differences in habitat and behavior you can find compared to the American White Pelican.

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Name three things pelicans eat.

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**Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation**

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