American White Pelican
(Pelecanus erythrorhynchos)

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.

Explore Idaho with Scout the Fox!

Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
parksandrecreation.idaho.gov
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 coastal lowlands.
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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. 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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