

Pelican

The pelican is a large waterfowl of the genus *Pelecanus* and family *Pelecanidae*.

They are characterized by their long beak with a large sac in the throat called the gular sac that it uses to capture its prey and drain water before swallowing them.

They swallow salt water and turn it into fresh water for their **consumption**.

Their wings can measure **3 meters**

Up to 2m tall

weigh about **15Kg**

Live 15 to 25 years in the wild

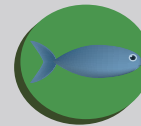
They are considered adults at **4 years**.

They have **4 webbed toes**, a common characteristic for **birds**.

The pelican is omnivorous.

Their diet is based on fish and crustaceans such as shrimp and crabs, as well as small species of turtles and squid.

Diet



Hunting

They can dip their beaks and fill the gular sac with lots of water and small fish.

The water is then expelled.

Their hunting method varies depending on the species.

Although they usually use the gular sac, they can also hunt fish while swimming in groups. Sometimes they hit the water with their wings to scare the fish away and corner them so they can use their

beaks to throw them out of the water and then gobble them down. They can plummet from 3,000 meters away. The parents are responsible for incubating and caring for the young. They incubate the eggs by standing on them. Despite their heavy weight they do not fracture the eggs.

The two parents are responsible for incubating and caring for the chicks. They hatch eggs by standing on them because like other birds such as boobies, gannets and cormorants, they do not develop brood patches (also called incubation patches). The brood patch is an area where the feathers fall out and the skin because warm so that eggs can be incubated.

40 million years ago

According to the fossils that have been found some 40 million years ago, birds with the characteristics of pelicans already existed.

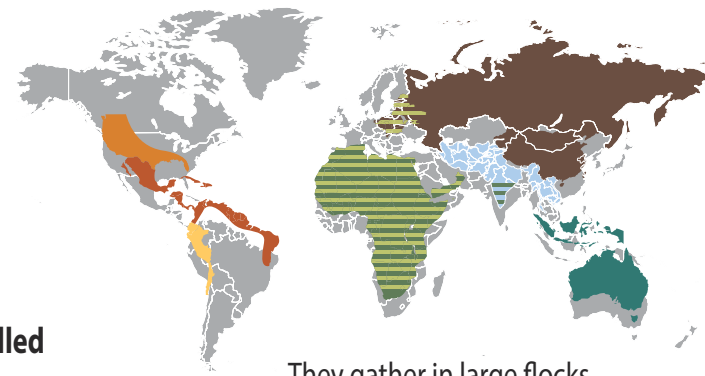
The gular sac, is a membrane which is usually used for hunting.

They cannot fly with the gular sac full. They lose their stability.



Flight Feather

They keep their feathers clean and waterproof by preening with an oil produced by their uropygial gland, which is close to the tail.



- American white pelican
- Brown pelican
- Peruvian pelican
- Pink pelican
- Australian pelican
- Pink-backed pelican
- Dalmatian pelican
- Gray pelican

They gather in large flocks of more than 100 birds.



They lay 2 to **3 eggs**

sometimes 4