

gray above, and black underneath. Breeds in Canada, nest in a low bush; eggs four, blush white."

In length, this species is between five and six inches. The plumage varies somewhat according to age, and season; but is generally on the upper parts of the body of a bright olive hue, with ashy on the head, below clear yellow, the throat and breast being black, the plumage of both sex is similar.

Listowel, Ontario, Canada.

ORNITHOLOGY.

A WHITE PELICAN AT MANOTICK.

J. F. WHITEAVES.

The Museum of the Geological Survey has recently acquired a fine specimen of the American white pelican, *Pelecanus erythrorhynchus*, which was shot two miles south of Manotick, Ont., by Mr. John Flann, Jr., on the 25th of May last. When shot, it was on a log in the Rideau River. It is a fine adult female in full spring plumage, with the culmen or ridge of the upper mandible of its bill flattened, and entirely devoid of the high, thin, upright comb or crest that is so characteristic of the middle of that part of the bill of the male of this species during the breeding season. The bill was partly pale horn and partly pale flesh coloured, with an orange tip to the upper mandible and a yellow patch round each eye; the pouch was bright yellow, the iris of each eye hazel or dark brown (not white), and the legs and feet bright orange. On dissection, the flesh was found to be inflated everywhere by numerous large air cells, most of the eggs were no larger than a small shot, though a few were as large as peas, and the stomach contained six freshly caught yellow perch about three or four inches in length.

The American white pelican, which was first described by Gmelin in 1788, is an abundant summer resident in the prairie country of Manitoba and the North West Territories, where it breeds in colonies, but it is rare in British Columbia. In winter it is common in Florida, and its course of migration northward is said to be along the great inland rivers, for in summer it is es-

entially an inland dweller. Macoun says that stragglers of this species are occasionally taken on Lake Ontario and others on Lake Erie, and Chamberlain that "one specimen has been taken in Nova Scotia and two in New Brunswick." But, so far as the writer is aware, this is the first record of its occurrence in the Ottawa valley. It was previously represented in the Survey collection by one specimen from Lake Winnipeg, shot by Mr. J. M. Macoun in 1884 and another from Crane Lake, Assa., shot by Mr. Sreadborough in 1896; by a series of its eggs, from a small island at the western end of Lake Winnipegosis, collected by Mr. J. B. Tyrrell in 1889; and by a large photograph of the nesting place of a colony, at Shoal Lake, Manitoba.

Two other species or varieties of pelican are of much rarer occurrence in Canada, and both of these are of an essentially marine habit.

One of these is the brown pelican, *Pelecanus fuscus*, which was first described by Linnæus in 1766, and which is common in the Southern Atlantic and Gulf States. During the last ten years at least three specimens of it have been shot in Nova Scotia, and one of these is in the Museum of the Survey.

The other is the Californian brown pelican, *Pelecanus Californicus*, two specimens of which, according to Mr. Fannin, have been shot on the coast of British Columbia. It was first described by Ridgway in 1884, and may be only a local variety of *Pelecanus fuscus*.

The "Pelican of the Wilderness," (Kâath) of the Psalms, is the European white pelican, *Pelecanus onocrotalus*, the male of which has no crest to the upper mandible in the breeding season. This species spends the winter in Palestine and migrates to Russia in the summer. Under the Mosaic dispensation, the use of its flesh for food was forbidden to the Jews. A recent writer says of it that the operation of feeding its young is rendered easier by the parent pressing the pouch and lower mandible against the breast, and the contrast of the red hook of the bill with the white of the breast probably gave rise to the poetic idea of the ancients, that the female pelican nourished her young with her blood. From the earliest times the pelican has been the emblem of charity.



Whiteaves, Joseph Frederick. 1904. "Ornithology, a White Pelican at Manotick." *The Ottawa naturalist* 18(3), 71–72.

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