



Adult



Great White Pelican

Pélican blanc

Pelecanus onocrotalus

Very large bird with a huge beak and a skin bag.

Adult: white plumage shaded of yellowish or flesh during the period of reproduction. Greyish yellow jugular bag but lighter during the breeding season. Yellowish pink legs becoming more reddish during the nesting. Dark red iris surrounded by an area of bare flesh-colored skin. In flight, the White Pelican presents the same contrast as a White Stork on the underside of the wing: the black remiges contrast with the white covers.

Young: rather dark brownish on the top, the head and the neck. Dirty white on the lower parts. Bare skin around the eyes and legs of flesh color. Yellowish jugular bag. In flight, seen from below, dark remiges and brownish subalar covers with a lighter median zone. Voice: Buzzes and grunts heard on colonies.

L. 140-175 cm; W. 245-295 cm.

Similar species: Dalmatian Pelican, Grey Pelican

Immature

