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# Animals of Shark Bay

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Pelican



Department of  
Environment and Conservation

*Our environment, our future*



**For ages 4 and up**

## Australian pelican

(*Pelecanus conspicillatus*)

The Australian pelican is one of the largest species of pelican and has the longest bill of any bird. The big bill of a pelican can hold about 10 litres of water. Pelicans use thermal updrafts to rise to high altitudes. Flights to 1,000 metres high are common, and flights of up to 3,000 metres have been recorded.

**Length:** 1.6–1.8 metres

**Weight:** 4–6.8 kilograms

**Diet:** Fish and some crustaceans.

## Distribution Map



**Habitat:** Common throughout most of Australia. Small numbers occur in Indonesia, New Guinea and the Western Pacific islands. They inhabit a variety of fresh and salt water environments.