

RARE BIRDS

Spotting pelicans

Look for two species of pelicans, the American white pelican and the brown pelican, at: Willapa National Wildlife Refuge, Long Beach, Wash.; New Youngs Bay Bridge, Astoria; Jones Beach, Clatskanie; Ecola Creek, Cannon Beach.



A formation of pelicans flies through cloudless skies.

Pat Welle



Pelican sightings on the rise in recent years

BY DAVID CAMPICHE

Aside from morning overcast, this is the season of warm winds, sunshine and the return of many of the Columbia-Pacific's migrating birds. High in the pearl-blue, summer sky, silhouetted and backlit, a squadron of American white pelicans glides with incredible steadiness over Pacific waters.

As kids growing up on the Long Beach Peninsula, we never saw a pelican. For that matter, never saw the vulture or the scrub jay either. We wondered about the birds' absence. Did they reside far to the south, in southern Oregon or in California? Mexico, maybe?

Much later, we heard about pelicans, vultures and raptors from the journals of Capt. William Clark, how he shot two condors, well, one. George Drouillard, a Shawnee scout and hunter, shot the second in the vicinity of Chinook, Washington.



Ethan Makowsky

The Willapa National Wildlife Refuge is rich in habitat diversity. This land includes forests, beaches and streams.



Pat Welle

See Page 7 An American white pelican shows off its long beak and wide wingspan.