

# General Field Notes

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## White Pelican at Carolina Beach, N.C.

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21 February 1977

About 1645 on 19 February 1977 we watched a White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) for a period of 3 to 5 minutes as it flew over the boat basin and lagoon at the north end of Carolina Beach at the end of Sixth Street. First spotted by Nicholson, it was very quickly confirmed by Alexander and then by the Grants. It was considerably larger than the Eastern Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), which were diving for food in the same area and also perching on nearby pilings. The large, very yellow throat-pouch was unmistakable as was a less yellow (but very obviously prominent) bill. The bird was almost completely white, exceptions being the wing tips, portions of the head where the bill adjoins, and the back of the head and neck region. Because the sky was overcast and the light conditions poor, it was impossible to get any consensus on the color of its feet and legs.

It should be noted that earlier, unconfirmed sightings of the White Pelican were made in early January near Wrightsville Beach by Mrs. C. Edwin Rowe. Also Kitty Kosh "thought" she saw one but had such a fleeting glimpse that she could not confirm the observation.

## The Mute Swan in North Carolina

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The Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) was introduced and naturalized in New York prior to publication of the 1957 edition of the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds*. In recent years the species has invaded the Chesapeake Bay area where it is now wintering (Am. Birds 29:673) and breeding (Am. Birds 29:955).

In view of the southward extension of breeding range, it seems worthwhile to report three immature Mute Swans seen near the dam at Lake Sagamore, near Bunn in Franklin County, N.C., on 2 December 1975. When first seen, the birds were in their threat posture. Although they were predominantly white, the birds had dingy necks, two of the three had