

## A review on morphology of spot billed pelican

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### Abstract:

The Spot billed Pelican (*pelecanus philippensis*), which is a threatened Bird. There are 8 species of Pelicans in the world. The Spot billed pelicans are found in South and Southeast Asia over an area between 1,29,000 km<sup>2</sup> and 1,81,000<sup>2</sup> i.e in India, Sri Lanka, Cambodia and Coastal areas of Sumatra. These birds are distributed in Southern and Northeastern India of states like Andhra Pradesh, TamilNadu, Karnataka, Assam. The Review on this Species provide perception into different factors that can be weighted and combined while making a decision.

**Key words :** Spot billed pelican, threatened, perception

### INTRODUCTION:

Spot Billed pelican (*pelecanus philippensis*) is otherwise known as Grey pelican or Spotted pelican or Philippine pelican. These Birds come under Threatened species. In many areas, the number of these species are reduced due to loss of habitat.

### SYSTEMATIC POSITION:

Kingdom- Animalia  
Phylum - Chordata  
Class - Aves  
Order – Pelecaniformes  
Family – Pelecanidae  
Genus – *Pelecanus*  
Species – *philippensis*

### MORPHOLOGY :

The Spot Billed Pelican is comparatively smaller than other Pelican species. It is about 125-152cm(49-60inches) long and a weight of 4 to 6kg(9.0 to 13.6 lb). Its colour is distinct. Skin of face is white. It has a grey Crest, hindneck and a brownish tail. Curly feathers are found in its hindneck. Its pouch is pink and has large pale spots. It is spotted on the sides of upper mandible. Yellow or orange colour Bill tip is found. Spot billed pelican possess a round tail. They lack bright colours. The plumages are distinctive with grey colour.

The Spot on the bill appears after one year of the hatching. In 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the hatching the full adult breeding plumage appears. Both the sexes become browner on head, back and the white face change to greyish colour after breeding.

### HABITAT:

The Spot billed pelican found in water bodies like lagoons, rivers, estuaries, reservoirs, tanks. As per nesting habitat, the bird is likely to live on large trees. This bird is not a migratory bird but it has some local movements.

### BREEDING :

The Spot billed pelican is also a colonial breeder that means it breeds in groups. The breeding season of Spot billed pelican is in October/November or January/ February. In summer season, it moves away from nesting grounds. Its eggs take 30-33 days to hatch. Eggs are chalky white in colour.

### FEEDING:

The Spot billed pelican mostly feeds on fish. Except fish it also eats prawn, tadpoles, frogs, lobsters. It is an opportunistic feeder.

### BEHAVIOUR: