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## Front Cover: **PELICANS**

Pelicans (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) are a genus of large water birds that make up the family Pelecanidae. Fossil record shows that the pelican lineage has existed for at least 30 million years. Their lifespan varies between 15 to 25 years. About 45,000 pass over Israel. They are a fairly common visitor in winter and a scarce in summer. The Agriculture Ministry of Israel protects farmers' fish ponds from hungry birds by providing food for thousands flying to and from Africa. The idea is to centralize their feeding ground at a central Israeli reservoir so the birds do not harm the livelihood of farmers by poaching fish from nearby breeding grounds.