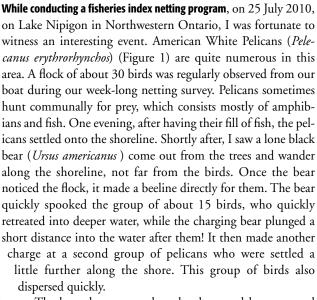
## Black Bear charges at American White Pelicans

By Misty Goodman





The bear then returned to the shore and hung around for a few moments, as if waiting for another group to materialize. When that did not happen, it continued ambling along its way. I have worked on Lake Nipigon for the past nine years, but this is the first time I have encountered a bear apparently attempting to catch a pelican. Black bears will eat carrion, insects, fish, and they are also opportunistic predators, but the bulk of their diet is plant material.

In Ontario, breeding American White Pelicans are found only in four places: Lake Nipigon, Lake of the Woods Provincial Park, James Bay and in the Thunder Bay District on Lake Superior. The number of breeding pairs of American White Pelicans in the Lake Nipigon and Lake of the Woods areas has increased over the last 15 years. Nevertheless, they are still vulnerable to threats from high water levels, disturbance of nesting sites by recreational boaters, and disease. The American White Pelican is listed as threatened under Ontario's Endangered Species Act, 2007, which protects the species and its habitat.

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