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How Does Mercury Contamination of
Lake Chapala Affect Migratory Pelicans?



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ON THE COVER: Lake Chapala is one of the largest wintering areas for American white pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) in Mexico. Lake Chapala is the ultimate receptor of a great variety of contaminants, including pesticides and heavy metals, from the Lerma basin and various local sources. American white pelicans are fish-eating birds and can be seriously affected by Hg concentrations in fish. The cover article assesses the potential impacts of Hg on wintering white pelicans in Lake Chapala.

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