



Brown Pelican

# Brown Pelican *(Pelecanus occidentalis)*

## Instant ID

- Large birds with brown feathers, orange and brown bills with brown pouches and webbed feet
- During breeding season the white neck develops a brown pattern and the yellow crown and bill become more distinct
- Adults have a silver sheen to their backs
- Juveniles have duller body coloration with brown necks and white bellies
- Wings span up to 7 feet and are folded in when diving

## Native Niches

- Found in the coastal areas of Florida
- Nests in colonies on islands and protected shores
- Ventures into protected waters such as bays, lagoons and rivers



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## Favorite Foods

- Uses pouch attached to bill to scoop up fish and water
- Strains water from bill and swallows fish

## Critter Characteristics

- Smallest pelican species in the world
- One of only two species of pelicans to dive after food
- Population recovering after the pesticide DDT was banned

## Population Protection

- Listed as a species of special concern in Florida
- Florida State Parks preserve nesting sites for the brown pelican
- Properly discard old fishing line, lures and netting