

# Brown Pelican

Photo by Paul Blieden



**Description:** Brown Pelicans are large, brownish-grey birds with vast wingspans and large pouch-shaped bills. They have white heads, yellow eyes and black feet. You can often spot them flying near the surface of the waves or diving for fish. Their keen eyesight allows them to see fish from 20-60 feet high. Brown pelicans rest near the shore on rocks and breakwaters. You might be able to see them flying in flocks in a straight or V-pattern.

**Where it is Found:** The Brown Pelican can be found in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf Coast of North, South and Central America.

**Diet:** Brown Pelicans eat fish close to the surface of the water including anchovies, herring, Pacific mackerel, minnows and sardines.

**Status in the ocean:** DDT greatly affected the Brown Pelican so much that it was put on the endangered species list in 1970. It is currently still on the list due to other human impacts such as disturbance and destruction on habitats and pollution such as entanglement in fishing lines.

**WOW!!!** A pelican's bill can hold three times the amount of food and water as his stomach can.