

Complex seasonal changes in plumage and bare-part colors

Brown Pelican

feeds by
plunge diving

2nd-s.
variable
(Dec-May)

juv/1st fall

2nd fall variation

some show
white patches

uniform
fresh
plumage

no wing
molt

1-2
molt
waves

retained
juv feathers

white stripe
like juv

3rd fall whitish
head

mottled

solidly
dark

adult

2-3 molt
waves

multiple
molt waves

worn plumage
brownish

distant Pacific
adult in bright
sun, cf. White
Pelican

uniform plumage

Juv
(Jun-Dec)

silvery upperparts,
cf. worn late
summer
plumage

Adult nonbr. (Sep-Mar)

Pacific

Ad br.
(Dec-May)

E birds lack
red on pouch

Adult post-hatching
(mainly Apr-Aug)