

# PACIFIC BROWN PELICAN SURVEY

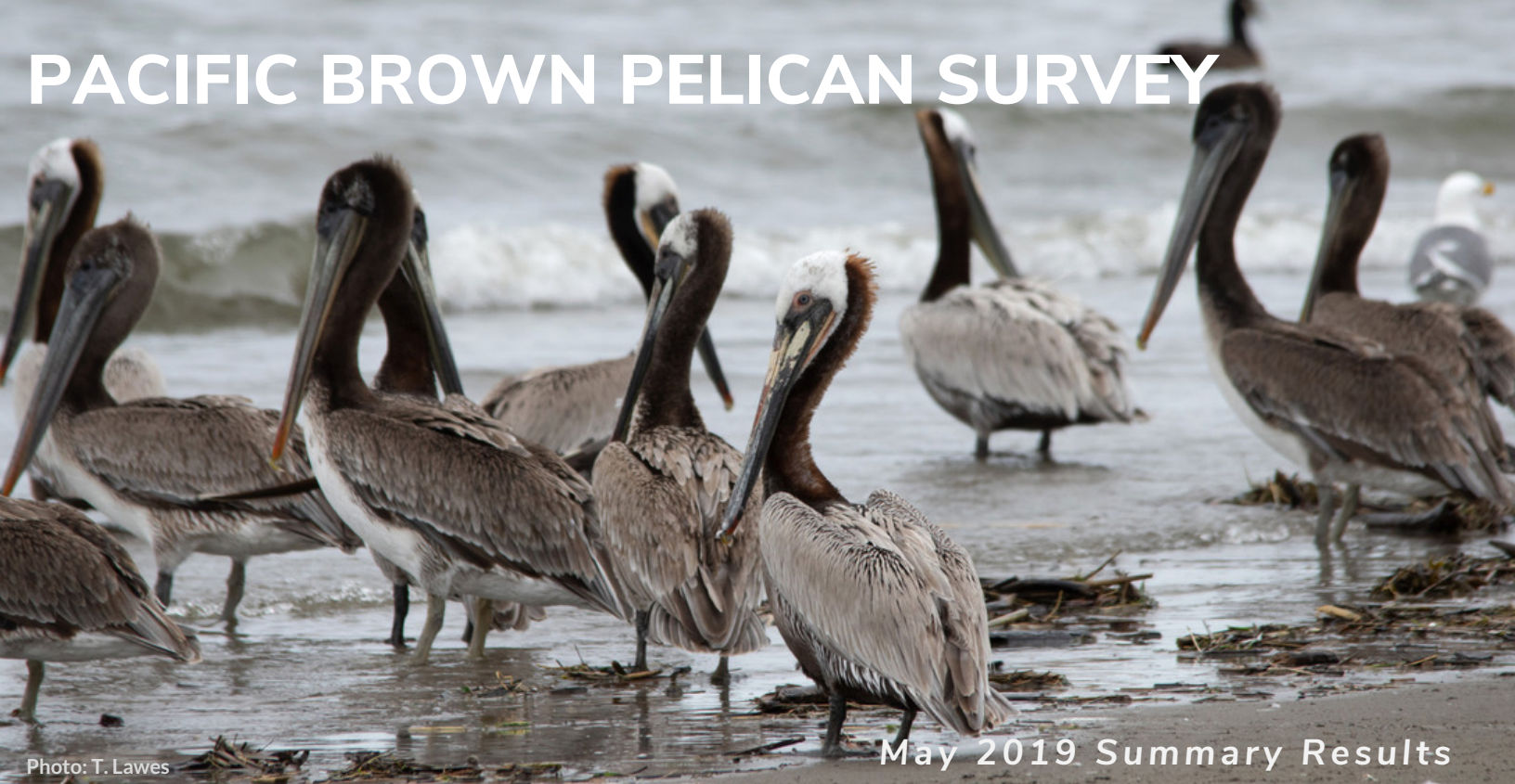


Photo: T. Lawes

May 2019 Summary Results

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

Started in 2016, the Pacific Brown Pelican Survey is a joint effort of the West Coast Audubon network, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and other partners. The goal is to conduct biannual surveys to help define distribution and abundance of Brown Pelicans and track shifts in population structure.

## WHY COUNT BROWN PELICANS?

The California Brown Pelican subspecies (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*) was removed from the Endangered Species list in 2009. In recent years Brown Pelican productivity at the Channel Islands and across the range has been poor, and key forage species including anchovy have collapsed raising questions and concerns about recruitment to the breeding population and ultimately the health of the subspecies.



May 2019 pelican count at Fort Stevens State Park, Oregon.  
Photo by M. Tarachow

**THIS PROJECT RELIES ON  
VOLUNTEER "COMMUNITY  
SCIENTISTS" TO COLLECT DATA.**





## SUMMARY

### Coast-wide Results | May 2019

- 79 out of 119 known roost sites were monitored across the West Coast from California to Washington by 124 volunteers. Baja California sites were not surveyed.
- A total of 4,925 Brown Pelicans were counted during the survey - see map for relative abundance.
- ~ 86% of surveyed pelicans were aged as "adult" or "juvenile". The percentage of adults to juveniles was 68.4% to 32.0% with nearly double the proportion of juveniles in OR & WA compared to CA.
- Seven pelicans were resighted with color-leg bands (5 in CA & 2 in OR) contributing to on-going seabird rehabilitation research.

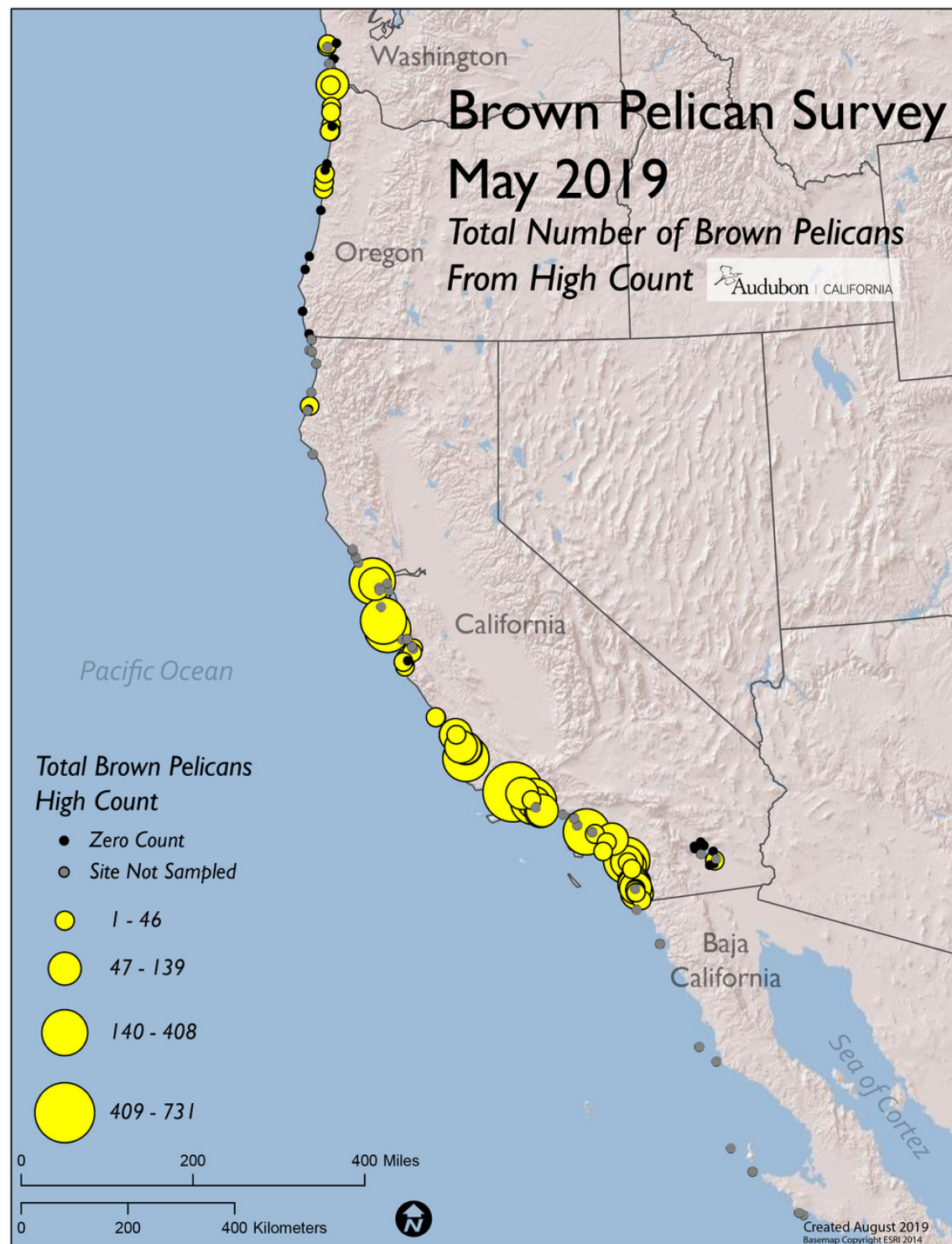


Photo: Dori

For more information visit: <http://ca.audubon.org/brownpelicansurvey>

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