

Brown Pelican Survey Instructions

Important points:

- Surveys are conducted **twice per year** during an assigned day in the spring (typically in May) and in the fall (typically in September). The survey **MUST** be conducted on the assigned day. Data collected on other days will not be used. Project coordinators will announce the survey date well in advance – if you are unclear on the survey date, contact a coordinator.
- Participants are assigned roost sites from a regional coordinator.
- Print out the [data sheet](#), and use it to record data during your survey. If you are unable to print the data sheets, please let us know and we will send them to you in the U.S. mail.
- After you finish the survey, enter data into the on-line database which is accessible at this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/0rkuDq20rhWuHBqX2>
 - **Please send the hard copy data and complete the on-line data within 2 weeks** of when you conducted the survey.
- Please ensure your survey takes place within the four hour survey window in the evening, starting four hours before civil twilight in your area. Civil twilight is when the sun dips below the horizon.
- Please conduct a **minimum of one hour** of surveying within the four hour window.
- Please do your best **to differentiate adult (white head) vs immature (any brown on head)**. While challenging, this is extremely important for answering one of the central questions of this survey.
- It is important to **record zero birds if you do not see any pelicans** during your count. Seeing no birds is still important data.
- Please report birds with bands.
- While we are no longer using eBird for this effort, we encourage people to input their observations into eBird.

Conducting the pelican count:

- Upon arriving at your survey location, immediately count/estimate all birds noting separately roosting birds, birds on water, or birds in flight.
- At some sites you may need a spotting scope to get an accurate count.
- Conduct a similar count (i.e. sub-count) a minimum of every 15 min or at more frequent intervals.
- Of all sub-counts, use the one that provided the highest overall count for data reporting.
- Be sure also to include your single highest count of pelicans roosting, in data reporting.

Example:

Count 1 - 3:35 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.

Roosting = 25

Loafing on water = 20

Fly by = 37

Total = 82

Count 2 - 3:50 p.m. - 4:05 p.m.

Roosting = 400

Loafing on water = 5

Fly by = 30

Total = 435

Count 3 - 4:20 - 4:30

Roosting = 25

Loafing on water = 40

Fly by = 450

Total 515

Max high count = Count number 3, with 515 brown pelicans

Max high count roosting = Count number 2, with 400 brown pelicans

Max high count on water = Count number 3, with 40 brown pelicans

Max high count in air = Count number 3, with 450 brown pelicans

Data Reporting

Again, as mentioned above, within 2 weeks after your count please:

1. Enter your data into the on-line form accessible at this link:
(<https://goo.gl/forms/OrkuDq20rhWuHBqX2>).
2. Scan/photograph and e-mail, and/or snail mail your California and Mexico data sheets to:

Anna Weinstein
Audubon California
220 Montgomery St., Suite 1000
San Francisco, CA 94102
aweinstein@audubon.org

For Oregon, please send your data sheets to:

Joe Liebezeit
Audubon Society of Portland
5151 NW Cornell Road
Portland, OR 97210
jliebezeit@audubonportland.org

For Washington, please send your data sheets to:

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5902 Lake Washington Blvd S, Seattle, WA 98118
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