

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.
- After you finish the survey, enter data into the on-line database which is accessible at this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/0rkuDq20rhWuHBqX2>
 - **Please enter data into the on-line form within 2 weeks of when you conducted the survey.** You do not need to send in your raw data forms but if you'd like you can scan and send to Joe Liebezeit (jliebezeit@audubonportland.org)
- Please ensure your survey takes place within the four hour survey window in the evening, starting four hours before sunset (or 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 on top of head) vs immature (any brown on top of head)**. While challenging, this is extremely important for answering one of the central questions of this survey. Refer to this pelican age guide: https://ca.audubon.org/sites/default/files/static_pages/attachments/id_guide_0.pdf
- 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, after you set up, 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 (you'll need to break these counts down by age-class as well – see data form):

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

Roosting = 25

On water = 20

In air = 37

Total = 82

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

Roosting = 400

On water = 5

In air = 30

Total = 435

Count 3 - 4:20 - 4:30

Roosting = 25

On water = 40

In air = 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. If you take any good photographs of your site, surveyors, and/or pelicans, and you are willing to share them, please share

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