



## Brown Pelican

*Pelecanus occidentalis*

FAMILY: Pelecanidae

ORDER: Pelecaniformes

AZA MANAGEMENT: None

### GEOGRAPHIC RANGE

- EUROPE
- ASIA
- NORTH AMERICA
- NEOTROPICAL
- AFRICA
- AUSTRALIA
- OTHER

### HABITAT

- FOREST
- DESERT
- GRASSLAND
- COASTAL
- RIVERINE
- MONTANE
- OTHER



### TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE



From 40° F to 110° F

Below 40F offer heat, shelter and open water. Provide shade above 90F.



### DIET

- FRUGIVORE
- NECTIVORE
- CARNIVORE
- OMNIVORE
- PISCIVORE
- FOLIVORE
- INSECTIVORE
- OTHER

Trout, smelt, capelin, sardines, herring



### LIFE EXPECTANCY

Median Life Expectancy

Maximum  
Longevity

Within AZA

X

Over 31 years

In the Wild

X

15+



## CIRCADIAN CYCLE

- DIURNAL
- CREPUSCULAR
- NOCTURNAL
- OTHER

Within AZA	X	Over 31 years
In the Wild	X	15+



# BREEDING INFORMATION



## AGE AT SEXUAL MATURITY



Males: 2-5 years



Females: 2-5 years

**Incubation period:** 28-30 days

**Fledgling Period:** 63 days in ground nesters, in tree nesters 74-76 days



## CLUTCH SIZE, & EGG DESCRIPTION



2-3, usually 3 eggs.



## COURTSHIP DISPLAYS

Territorial displays, to ward off intruders or to strengthen pair bond formation, include bill raised upward with the pouch swollen, gaping, bill-clapping, bowing, head-wagging, and bill-interlocking.



## NEST SITE DESCRIPTION

Mostly on ground, sometimes on cliffs, and less often in small trees or bushes. Ground nest is a slight depression, normally with little material, while a tree nest is a more elaborate stick platform.



## CHICK DEVELOPMENT

Chicks hatch naked, and grow white down.



## PARENTAL CARE

Both parents incubate and care for the chick. Care for the chicks occurs for about 14+ days post fledge in ground nesters, and no post fledge care in tree nesters.

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# CAPTIVE HABITAT INFORMATION



## SOCIAL STRUCTURE

**In the wild:** Gregarious in virtually all aspects of their daily activity. They breed colonially, fish communally and also tend to roost and loaf in large flocks.

**Within AZA:** Social groups as numbers allow.



## MIXED SPECIES EXHIBITS

Compatible in mixed species exhibits?

YES

NO

**Comments:** Work well mixed with American white pelicans as well as other species of water bird such as darters, cormorants, herons, etc. Competition for fish from larger pelicans to be considered.



## OPTIMAL HABITAT SIZE

Exhibit that has both land area and a pool/pond space.

**Minimum Group Size:** Suggest 2

**Maximum Group Size:** As many as space allows



## MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Many birds are rehabs, missing part or all of the wing. Full-winged healthy birds must be wing-clipped annually or pinioned after hatch. Competition for captive diet provides an opportunity for conditioning birds to eat separately.

## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

## REFERENCES

BirdLife International 2012. *Pelecanus occidentalis*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2014.3. <[www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)>. Downloaded on 01 January 2015.

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Photo credit: Antonio Silveria via the Internet Bird Collection



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