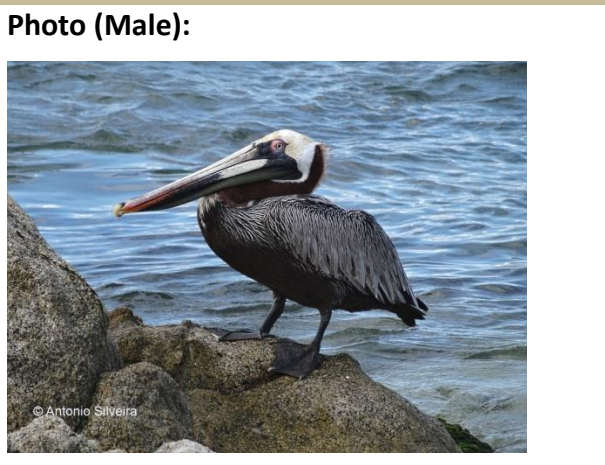


# Species Fact Sheets

**Order:** Pelecaniformes  
**Scientific Name:** *Pelecanus occidentalis*

**Family:** Pelecanidae  
**Common Name:** Brown Pelican

**AZA Management:**    Green                       Yellow                       Red                       None



**NATURAL HISTORY:**

**Geographic Range:**   Europe                         Asia                         North America                         Neotropical     
    Africa                         Australia                         Other

**Habitat:**                      Forest                         Desert                         Grassland                         Coastal     
    Riverine                         Montane                         Other   [Click here to enter text.](#)

**Circadian Cycle:**   Diurnal                         Crepuscular                         Nocturnal                         Other   [Click here to enter text.](#)

**Cold Tolerance:**                      To 70° F                         To 60° F                         To 50° F                         To 40° F     
    To 30° F                         To 20° F                         Other   [Below 40F offer heat, shelter and open water](#)

**Heat Tolerance:**                      To 30° F                         To 50° F                         To 70° F                         To 90° F     
    To 110° F                         Other   [Provide shade above 90F](#)

**Diet:**                      Frugivore                         Carnivore                         Piscivore                         Insectivore     
    Nectivore                         Omnivore                         Folivore                         Other (Add Below)  

**Captive Dietary Needs:**  
 Trout, smelt, capelin, sardines, herring

**Life Expectancy in the Wild:**                      Males:   15+                      Females:   15+

**Life Expectancy in Captivity:**                      Males:   Over 31 years                      Females:   Over 31 years

# Species Fact Sheets

## BREEDING INFORMATION:

**Age at Sexual Maturity:** Males: 2-5 years Females: 2-5 years

**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.

**Clutch Size, Egg Description:** 2-3, usually 3 eggs.

**Incubation Period:** 28-30 days

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

**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.

**Chick Development:** Chicks hatch naked, and grow white down.

## 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.

**Social Structure in Captivity:** Social in groups as numbers allow.

**Minimum Group Size:** Suggest 2

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

**Compatible in Mixed Species Exhibits:** Yes

**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.

**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:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

# Species Fact Sheets

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## 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 Silveira via the Internet Bird Collection

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## COMPLETED BY:

Name: Jamie Ries

Date: 1/1/2015