

# Pacific Brown Pelican Survey

## Oregon Fall 2017 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, Cornell Lab of Ornithology (eBird), 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. This project relies on volunteer “Community Scientists” to collect data.



Photo: Scott Carpenter



Photo: Mick Thompson

### 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 and sardine have collapsed raising questions and concerns about recruitment to the breeding population and ultimately the health of the subspecies.



## This is a big effort!

- Across the West Coast from Baja California to Washington State, over 150 sites are surveyed twice a year (spring and fall) following a [standardized protocol](#).
- Over 300 people have participated in this project.
- In Fall 2017, the count was conducted on September 9<sup>th</sup> from 4-8pm.
- To view West Coast wide 2016 preliminary results visit: <http://ca.audubon.org/brownpelicansurvey>

## Oregon results – Fall 2017

- 18 sites were surveyed from Chetco Point near the California border to East Sand Island in the Columbia River.
- Over 40 volunteers participated.
- Number of pelicans ranged from none (2 sites) to a huge group of 1,606 birds seen on East Sand Island. A total of 1,976 pelicans were detected across all sites (see map).
- The ratio of adults to juvenile birds was 11:2 although this was from a small subset of birds that were able to be aged (n=52).

## In for the long-term

This project is planned for multiple years. Stay tuned for a thorough west coast wide analysis in the future!



Photo: Mick Thompson

For more information visit: <http://audubonportland.org/issues/community-science>  
If interested in participating, contact Joe Liebezeit: [jliebezeit@audubonportland.org](mailto:jliebezeit@audubonportland.org)

## OREGON FALL 2017 BROWN PELICAN SURVEY RESULTS

### Number of pelicans



\* NOTE: Symbol is not proportional to the number of pelicans observed.

