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, 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.

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

THIS PROJECT RELIES ON VOLUNTEER “COMMUNITY SCIENTISTS” TO COLLECT DATA.
84 out of 119 known roost sites were monitored across the West Coast from Baja California to Washington by 152 volunteers.

A total of 10,829 Brown Pelicans were counted during the survey (see map for relative abundance). The most birds detected at 1 site was 1,462 at Morro Bay in California.

~77% of surveyed pelicans were aged as “adult” or “juvenile” with overall percentages of 43.4% to 56.6% respectively. Juveniles made up most of aged birds detected in California and Washington (>50%).

Since 2016 19 color-marked pelicans have been resighted: 16 in California and 3 in Oregon contributing to on-going seabird rehabilitation research.

For more information visit: https://audubonportland.org/get-involved/community-science/brown-pelican/

Get involved! California contact: Anna Weinstein (aweinstein@audubon.org) | Oregon contact: Joe Liebezeit (jliebezeit@audubonportland.org) | Washington contact: Teresa Anderson (tanderson@audubon.org) | Baja California contact: Yuliana Bedolla (yuliana.bedolla@islas.org.mx)