CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Brown Pelican

Pelecanus occidentalis

The brown pelican is one of only two pelicans in the world that plunge-dives; every other species swims and scoops. It drops from as high as 20 m, and just before impact it twists its body to the lef…

Quick facts

Classification: Bird
Family: Pelecanidae
Habitat: Coastal marine and estuarine environments
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 15-25 years
Weight: 2-5 kg
Scientific name: Pelecanus occidentalis

Did you know?

- The Brown Pelican was once endangered due to pesticide pollution, but has made a remarkable recovery after DDT was banned in the United States.
- Laughing gulls habitually land on a pelican's head as it drains its pouch and snatch fish straight out of the bill. Brown pelicans are the smallest o…

What I learned

© Creature Atlas · www.creatureatlas.com · Free for classroom & personal use