

## Louisiana PASS



### Brown Pelicans

Even though brown pelicans are endangered, you probably know what they look like; you've seen the image of a pelican on the Louisiana State flag. Pelicans are big birds. They weigh about ten pounds and have a wingspan of over seven feet. That's taller than most people are!

Pelicans eat fish, which is why they have such large bills. The bill of a pelican has a pouch suspended from the bottom in which they scoop up fish (and a lot of ocean water too). The pouches are huge, and can hold three times as much as their stomachs! Pelicans find fish by flying over the ocean. When they pick one out, they fold their wings up and dive into the water. If successful, they come up with dinner in their pouch. All that's left for the pelican to do is drain the ocean water out and toss the tasty meal from its pouch to its mouth!

To see a photograph of brown pelicans, click on this link.

[Brown Pelicans](#)

For more information on brown pelicans, click on these links:

[Pelecanus occidentalis: The Brown Pelican](#)

[Birds of America](#)

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