

Gillespie Creek Journal

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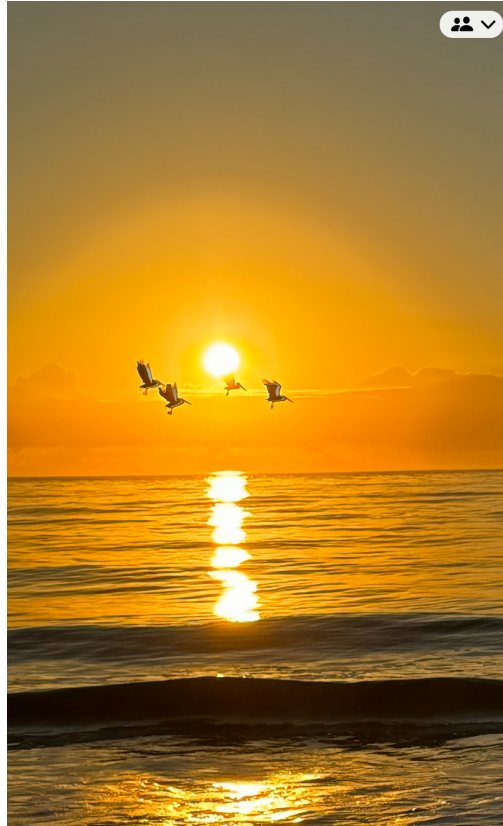


During a dive Brown Pelican rotates its body to the left to cushion its trachea and esophagus both found on the right side of its neck during impact. Gulls often try to steal the fish out of Pelican's pouch. Gulls stand on the Pelican's head in wait for an easy meal!



*Happy Holiday's
Enjoy this Newsletter along with a
second encore piece from 2022.
"Christmas Bird Count"
Best Wishes!
JA*

Engage Your Senses



Brown Pelicans at Sunrise
12/9/23

Sea and Ocean Photos by JA



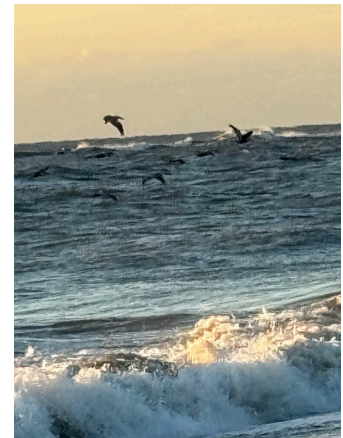
Brown Pelican Photo by Mitchel Sadoff

Brown Pelicans nest on islands either bare and rocky or covered with mangroves or other trees. The oldest Pelican known lived to be 43 years old.

These diving birds can forage head first from a height of 60' above the water. When it comes to the surface it tilts its bill down to drain water out of its pouch, then tosses its head back to swallow.

Nature's Treasures Abound

My 2023 visit to the Lowcountry seashore found the sea angry and the beach sand dunes fighting to hold on. The extremely high tides of climate change and the a new moon seemed to keep the beach and skies void of the usual profuse shore bird communities. **Brown Pelicans in the air were an exception.**



All About Birds, a publication of Cornell University reminds us that Pelicans plunge into the water to feed. When the huge bird surfaces it drains water from its throat pouch. The species incubates its eggs with the skin of its feet by sanding on the eggs to keep them warm. Midcentury DDT softened the egg shells nearly causing Brown Pelican extinction. Today due to the DDT's regulation Brown Pelicans have made a full recovery



New Moon 12/14/23
Frightening Tidal Surge
Experience Awe