

Not So Brown Pelicans

Ted Below, Rookery Bay Reserve

January 14 (1:00 – 2:00 pm)

DESCRIPTION OF LECTURE

Did you know Brown Pelicans are only brown for the first 20% of their lives? Learn how to determine the approximate age of Brown Pelicans by the color of their feathers. Ted Below will take you step by step through a Brown Pelican's life by following their ever changing plumage coloration. Therefore, you could say you will learn all about the life history of Multicolored Pelicans.

BIOGRAPHY

Below was born in Brooklyn NY in 1924 and moved to Naples FL in 1955 where he promptly fell in love with Florida's beautiful birds. By 1956 he was an avid bird watcher which developed into a career in bird research. Below's bird research began with the 1966 Sooty Tern banding project in the Dry Tortugas. He started studying Brown Pelicans in 1972 and broadened his research to all coastal water birds later that year. He started working for National Audubon as a warden/biologist while continuing coastal waterbird monitoring in 1982. He retired from NAS as warden by the end of 1994 but not from bird research. Below continued part time research as biologist for National Audubon until 2003 when he came to work for Rookery Bay Reserve as an Avian Ecologist until 2009. Below now volunteers his time at Rookery Bay Reserve to continue long term studies of coastal waterbirds. These studies include 60 miles of Southwest Florida's coastline, from Naples to Chokoloskee Pass. He is also served in the posts of Director, Vice-president, and President of the Florida Ornithological Society.

